

## Russia upbeat over MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, thanking him for his invitation to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October and stressing his country's interest in participation. President Yeltsin said Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, intends to have a high-level participation in the summit, as well as in all efforts designed to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. The Russian president expressed conviction that the summit will constitute an important landmark on the path of reaching the long-sought peace in this region. The decisions to be adopted at the summit will contribute effectively to creating effective structures aimed to convert the region into a region for real peace and genuine cooperation, President Yeltsin said. He added that the establishment of a large-scale partnership to develop the Middle East and establish economic and social cooperation will have a positive impact on arriving at comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

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جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

## Israeli policeman injured by Gaza bomb

GAZA CITY (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded near an Israeli patrol in the southern Gaza Strip Sunday. One Israeli soldier was hospitalised, suffering from shock. The bomb went off around 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) at the Morag junction between the towns of Khan Yunis and Rafah, the army spokesman's office said. There were no other injuries or damage, the army said. Tracks from the bomb site led to a nearby house, from which shots were fired at Israeli troops last week, the Itim news agency said. No group claimed responsibility for the bomb. The army decided to keep the Gaza Strip closed off from Israel for a fifth day, military officials said. The closure of checkpoints between the Gaza Strip and Israel was imposed at 1 a.m. Thursday to try to prevent attacks from militants if an accord was signed to spread autonomy over the West Bank. The measure will remain in force until dawn Monday.

## Soames arrives

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Minister of State for the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames arrived in Amman Sunday for talks with Jordanian officials over the situation in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Soames, whose visit here is part of a four-leg Middle East tour that includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, was also expected to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Soames said he was "carrying a personal message from Prime Minister John Major to King Hussein concerning the situation in Iraq and Bosnia." He declined to elaborate.

"Events in Bosnia have reached a defining moment," he said. "There are a number of opportunities and dangers ahead and it is important to discuss them with countries in the region."

He declined to comment on the defection of Hussein Kamel Hassan, a close confidant of President Saddam Hussein who defected from Iraq along with his brother, family and escorts.

Mr. Soames is scheduled to meet with King Hussein before his departure Monday. He hinted that the United Kingdom would defend Jordan in the event of Iraqi retaliation. "Great Britain's record speaks for itself," said Mr. Soames.

Jordan maintains more than 3,200 peacekeepers in the U.S. force in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Soames, who was appointed to his current position in July and has been a Conservative member of parliament since 1983, is accompanied on his visit to the Kingdom by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wartan.

Sir William commanded the British air force in the 1991 Gulf war that drove Iraq

(Continued on page 7)

## King, Saudi envoy discuss bilateral ties, latest events

High Riyadh official pays first visit to Jordan after Gulf crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday met with a high-ranking Saudi envoy paying the first such visit to Jordan after the Gulf crisis and discussed bilateral relations and the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, official sources said.

Also expected to have been discussed during the meeting was a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by King Hussein for a summit with King Fahd in the first such encounter between the two leaders after relations were strained in the wake of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is expected According to the sources,

to visit Riyadh this week to prepare for the summit, which will seal Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation, according to the sources. No detail was available on the timing of the summit.

It will be Mr. Kabariti's second trip to Riyadh in a month and reflects the improvement in relations, which is expected to be capped by the nomination soon of a Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

Riyadh recalled its envoy from Amman in 1991 in protest against what it saw as Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis and declined to approve a replacement for the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia when the diplomat's tenure ended. Early this year, however, the Saudi government accepted a Jordanian ambassador, but has not named a new ambassador to Amman.

The Saudi envoy, who was received by the King on Sunday was described by the sources as a leading member of the Saudi royal family. One source identified the envoy as Prince Turki Al Faisal, but it could not be immediately confirmed.

According to the sources,

the King and the Saudi envoy reviewed Jordanian-Saudi relations and the sudden twist in the Middle East situation brought in by the defection of Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, Iraq's minister of industry and minerals, along with his wife Raghad, President Saddam's eldest daughter, and his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, and his wife Rana, the second daughter of the Iraqi president. Jordan has given them asylum (see separate stories).

Closer details of the discussions were not immediately available.

Jordan has improved its relations with Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Mr. Kabariti told a Kuwaiti newspaper last week that he expected ties with Kuwait also to improve soon.

A report that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah called Mr. Kabariti over the phone on Sunday could not be immediately confirmed.

Opposition deputies say Jordan should not be a base for Iraqi opposition

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday welcomed Jordan's move to grant asylum to the Iraqi president's son-in-laws and their families but criticised what they saw as the Kingdom's agreement to grant the Iraqi opposition the ground to launch their operations against another "brotherly" Arab country.

The House is expected to convene today in a special session to discuss the Jordanian move.

Several deputies, interviewed by the Jordan Times on Sunday, lauded the Kingdom's hospitality for Arab asylum-seekers but strongly criticised and expressed astonishment at "what followed later."

Opposition deputies warned of "serious consequences" for the Kingdom if it was used as a base for Iraqi opposition.

"Jordan has been always known for its hospitality," the head of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, Abdullah Nsour, told the Jordan Times. "But Jordan has never been known to have interfered in other countries' internal affairs. It has never been involved in terrorist attacks or military coup d'etats."

Iraqi Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother Saddam Kamel and their wives — both daughters of President Saddam — arrived last week in Jordan seeking asylum.

General Hussein announced in a press conference on Saturday that he would work with Iraqi groups inside and outside Iraq to topple the Iraqi regime.

Dr. Nsour said that this move might anger the Iraqi government. This feeling was widely shared by opposition deputies who regarded Jordan's position as an "unhealthy" and said it might lead to "undesired consequences."

Bassam Amoush, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, said Jordan should not be involved in other countries' internal affairs and warned of serious consequences on Jordan.

Gen. Majid, a top official in the ruling Baath Party and former defense minister, said in a letter published in official newspapers,

"By taking them (the Iraqis) in and allowing them to operate against another Arab country, Jordan sets a precedent," Dr. Amoush said. "It is an aggression on Jordan's part."

Gen. Majid, 52, travelled to Amman last Thursday with President Saddam's oldest son, Uday, after Jordan gave the defectors political asylum.

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# Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1995

## Iraqi defector may be unwilling to share secrets

By Jane Arraf  
Reuter

**WASHINGTON** — Hussein Kamel Hassan's defection has shaken his father-in-law Saddam Hussein's regime but the former official who holds Iraq's deepest military secrets may not be willing to share them with the West.

Analysts said the lieutenant general, who made a dramatic call on Saturday to Iraqi soldiers and civilians to help overthrow President Saddam, could jeopardise the influence he hopes to maintain at home if he hands over Iraq's carefully-guarded secrets.

"Getting Iraq's deepest secrets might be a tough nut to crack," said Phebe Marr, a senior fellow at the Pentagon's Institute for National Strategic Studies and author of a history of Iraq.

She said General Hassan risked being branded a traitor by military men left to face deteriorating conditions in Iraq and weakening his influence within a potentially significant core of nationalist opposition to President Saddam outside Iraq.

U.S. officials refused to say whether they had been in contact with Gen. Hassan, who arrived on King Hussein's doorstep this week along with his brother, Saddam Kamel Hassan, who was in charge of President Saddam's guards, and their wives, both of whom are President Saddam's daughters.

At a palace press conference in Amman on Saturday, Gen. Hassan sidestepped questions about his contacts with the United States, emphasising that he had been in touch with Iraqi

dissidents inside and outside Iraq.

Although he was treated in Amman in February for what Jordanian officials said was a brain tumour, Gen. Hassan, in his early 50s, appeared fit and brimming with bravado.

Some described the brothers' defections as what was already a shrinking circle of loyalty to President Saddam as possibly the biggest blow to the Iraqi leader's stability since he quelled Kurdish and Shi'ite rebellions after the 1991 Gulf war.

"He's about as close to Saddam as you can get," said one State Department source with long experience of Iraq.

After Saddam's sons, Gen. Hassan, a man with only primary school education but known as an orga-

nisation genius, was perhaps the most important man in the small and secretive circle of power surrounding the Iraqi leader.

Married to President Saddam's daughter Raghad, he built up Iraq's military machine, including its illicit procurement network, established military special forces and the elite Republican Guard and headed reconstruction after the 1991 Gulf war which drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"His conversations with U.N. officials could be very important to that," said an administration official, referring to Gen. Hassan's knowledge of the arms programmes.

"We have said all along that Iraq must comply with all Security Council resolutions, particularly the ones

concerning weapons of mass destruction... what new information he can bring to that, I really don't know... we shall see," he said.

U.S. officials and analysts said the former head of military industrialisation, who has led negotiations with U.N. officials dismantling Iraq's weapons programmes, handled the concealment of operations that frustrated efforts to rid Iraq of its deadliest arms after the Gulf war.

"He's the one who maintained the secret programmes for years and he knows how to deceive," said Ms. Marr.

Although they say they are slowly getting the information from other sources, the United Nations believes Iraq is still concealing

information on its biological weapons programme — key reasons for maintaining crippling trade sanctions against Baghdad.

"I'm sure he could be very, very valuable if he wanted to talk, but it's not certain that he will," said one European official who analyses Iraq.

Several Iraq-watchers said Gen. Hassan, who was believed to have serious rifts with President Saddam's son Uday over power and money, was seen as being a relative moderate in President Saddam's circle.

"I always believed he wanted to agree to 706 and 712," said one official, referring to the U.N. resolutions repeatedly rejected by Iraq which would have allowed Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil under international supervision.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sudanese army capture town from rebels

**KHARTOUM** (AFP) — Government troops in southern Sudan have recaptured the town of Kaya, in western Equatoria, from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the armed forces announced Sunday in a communiqué. The statement broadcast on official radio said that government troops at sunset Saturday "liberated the strategic town of Kaya" from the SPLA which control many parts of west Equatoria state. The area straddles the juncture border point of Sudan, Zaire and Uganda. The communiqué did not give a toll of casualties and said government troops were fully committed to "agreements and accords and therefore confined their activities to administrative movements and defending their sites." Upon numerous attacks by the rebels on Bazi garrison (an army post) our troops commenced with the task of crushing the rebels and hirings and restored the strategic town of Kaya as a gift to the Sudanese people on the 41st Sudanese army day celebration."

### Jailed 'drug queen' turns out to be a man

**CAIRO** (AFP) — A drug dealer arrested three years ago in the Egyptian capital went into prison classified as a woman and turned out after his sentencing to be a man, the government daily Al Akhbar reported on Saturday. The unnamed man was known as "the queen of the drug dealers" by locals in the Cairo slum of Imbaba where he worked, since they had known him as a girl since childhood. After the dealer's arrest, authorities made the same mistake and put him in a women's prison. But they soon realised he was a man and transferred him to another facility, Al Akhbar said. When released he returned home, mustachioed and wearing men's clothes, to the shock of his neighbours. He explained that he had been forced early on to dress as a woman by his father who regretted never having a daughter, the paper said.

### Libya praises U.S. stop to nuclear testing

**TRIPOLI** (AFP) — Libya praised on Saturday U.S. President Bill Clinton's commitment to halt all nuclear testing but cast doubt on his ability to uphold the decision, the state news agency JANA reported. "The American commitment constitutes an important support of the international community aiming to put an end to nuclear proliferation and reduce its dangers," JANA said. "But the acts of certain agencies in the American government more powerful than the president lead us to doubt the credibility of his statements," it added. It cited as an example what it called "the secret transfer" in late 1994 of 600 kilograms of radioactive uranium from Kazakhstan to an American nuclear power station. "To make President Clinton's statements credible this uranium must be handed over to the International Atomic Energy Agency," JANA said.

### Russian diplomat to visit sick captive

**DUBAI** (R) — A Sharjah-based Russian air company said on Sunday it was awaiting the outcome of an expected visit to Kandahar by a Russian diplomat to discuss the fate of a seriously ill employee held captive by an Afghan militia. Viktor Riazanov, one of seven airmen held by the Islamic Taliban militia in Afghanistan, has been described as seriously sick by a doctor who visited him. A commander of the militia, which forced the men's Illyushin 76 plane to land 10 days ago and took the crew captive when they found it was carrying ammunition, has said he would allow Mr. Riazanov to leave if his firm sent a replacement captive. An official from the air company Trans Avia, told Reuters by telephone from Sharjah, one of the United Arab Emirates seven states, "we are awaiting the (Russian) diplomat's arrival in Kandahar and the outcome of his talks."

### Egyptian Coptic leader in South Africa

**JOHANNESBURG** (AFP) — Pope Shenouda III of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church arrived here Saturday for a 12-day visit to South Africa, a statement by the church said. Pope Shenouda was to meet clergy from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Zaire, the statement added. He is also expected to meet President Nelson Mandela, deputy presidents Thabo Mbeki and Frederik de Klerk, and various provincial premiers. Pope Shenouda will lay the foundation stone for a church in KwaZulu-Natal province and consecrate churches in Cape Town and in Free State province, the statement said.

### New president for Israel's supreme court

**TEL AVIV** (AFP) — Justice Aharon Barak was sworn in Sunday as the new president of Israel's Supreme Court, bringing to the job a reputation as a strongly independent liberal. The 59-year-old, who was born in Lithuania and emigrated to Israel in 1947, was the Israeli legal adviser in the drawing up of the Camp David peace accord with Egypt in 1978. He was appointed to the supreme court the same year and served as deputy president from 1993. He set a trend for justices to overrule government decisions. Mr. Barak is expected to introduce judicial review of legislation for the first time in Israel, which some lawyers predict will lead to clashes with parliament. Attorney general from 1975-1978, he takes over from Meir Shamgar who is retiring at the age of 70.

### Egyptian 'pirates' loot Philippines boat

**CAIRO** (AFP) — Six armed Egyptian "pirates" raided a Philippines ship in the Suez Canal and stole 24 television sets, the government daily Al Akhbar reported Sunday. The six thieves boarded the ship at the southern entrance to the canal, 40 kilometres from the port of Suez. They loaded their booty in their own boat and escaped, the paper said. But they were arrested several days later on the Suez-Ismailiya road alongside the canal, driving a lorry with stolen goods inside.

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## Israel-PLO statement

FOLLOWING IS the text of a joint statement agreed by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel after a week of negotiations on an interim agreement for the spread of autonomy across the West Bank was made public on Sunday.

Points still in dispute are given as (I) Israeli proposals, and (P) Palestinian proposals.

Area B covers rural zones. Area C covers settlements and sites to remain under Israeli control.

### Joint statement

The Palestinian delegation headed by President Yasser Arafat and the Israeli delegation headed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, met in Taba, Egypt, between Aug. 7-11, 1995, and agreed on some of the principles to be elaborated in the Interim Agreement as follows:

#### 1. Area B:

In area B there will be a complete redeployment of Israeli military forces. The Palestinian police shall assume responsibility for public order for Palestinians and shall establish (I: 25) (P: 30) police stations and posts in towns, villages and other places as agreed.

In Area B Israel shall have the overriding responsibility for security for the purpose of protecting Israelis and confronting the threat of terrorism. While the (I: activities) (P: movement) of uniformed Palestinian policemen in Area B outside places where there is a Palestinian police station will be carried out after coordination and confirmation, three months after the completion of redeployment from Area B, the DCOs (District Coordination and Cooperation Offices) may decide that movement of Palestinian policemen from the police stations in Area B to Palestinian towns traffic will take place after notifying the DCO.

These procedures will be reviewed within six months.

2. Further redeployments:

The further redeployments of Israeli military forces to specified military locations will be gradually implemented in accord-

ance with the DOP (Declaration of Principles) in three intervals, every six months, after the inauguration of the council, to be completed by (P: February) 1997. In Area C, while Israel will transfer civil powers and responsibilities not relating to territory in the first phase of redeployment, powers and responsibilities relating to territory will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction that will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, except for issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, during the further redeployment phases to be completed by (P: February) (I: July) 1997.

3. Hebron:

With regard to Hebron both sides exchanged ideas and decided to continue the negotiations on this issue.

4. Prisoners:

In addition to the two stages of prisoner release agreed in the context of the Ministerial Committee (one upon the signing of the interim agreement and the other — before the Palestinian elections), there will be a third stage of prisoner release. The Ministerial Committee will work out the details of this third stage.

5. Revenues:

The Israeli side will transfer tax revenues to the Palestinian side upon the signing of the interim agreement.

6. Joint committee:

A joint Israeli-Palestinian-American committee will be formed to deal with (1) economic issues, (2) water production and (3) political coordination.

7. The Palestinian Covenant:

Two months after the inauguration of the Palestinian Council, the Palestinian covenant will be amended in accordance with the letter of Chairman Arafat to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, dated Sept. 9, 1993.

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The further redeployments of Israeli military forces to specified military locations will be gradually implemented in accord-

## Hammad, Khatib promise better bridge facilities



Interior Minister Salameh Hammad and the Sheikh Hussein bridge across the River Jordan on Sunday (Petra photo)

temporary solution pending the construction of appropriate facilities.

Mr. Khatib said these essential services will be provided as soon as possible, especially in view of the growing influx of tourists to the Kingdom in the wake of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

Referring to the situation at the Sheikh Hussein

bridge, the minister said, that efforts are being exerted on daily basis to improve the services for the visitors, adding that the ministry of tourism was determined to address various shortages and deal with all the problems.

The two ministers first called at the King Hussein Bridge where baggage facilities and air conditioned

buses have been provided. Work is underway for the construction of an additional hall for arrivals, a project that is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

The Prince Mohammad Bridge is solely used for trucks transporting West Bank and Gazan goods to Jordan and other Arab countries.



Tansu Ciller

frustration, but Turkey also went through its own crisis in 1994 as its currency exchange rates were imposed.

"There was indeed a lot of euphoria at the beginning," a western diplomat said.

"Turkey tried to do a lot

at first, but Central Asia is very isolated and doesn't have the resources, so there has had to be a change in expectations," said the diplomat, requesting anonymity.

ANKARA (AFP) — When the Soviet Union crumbled in 1991, Ankara rushed to establish ties with its Central Asian and Azeri cousins, fuelling fears — or hopes for some — of a pan-Turkish creation.

Three years have gone by and the excitement has faded, but Turkey is still working to strengthen its economic foothold in the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan and in the Caucasus republic of Azerbaijan.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, leaving Monday on her second trip to the region in two months, will push for more trade, a huge oil pipeline deal and eventually a highway linking Central Asia to Turkey, officials said.

She takes with her a team of 50 businessmen, her energy minister and other officials on a five-day tour.

"We are planning to develop our relations with

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

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Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341

Emergency ..... 637277

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630323

Hotel Complaints ..... 603800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Maternity ..... 642362

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## BRIEF

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**FILM**  
\* "Pella in Jordan" at Abdul  
Hameed Shoman Foundation  
Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m. (Film  
will be followed by a commentary by Dr. Pam Watson.)

**PLAY**  
\* "The Maids" (written by Jean  
Genet) starring Majid Al Qasas



NOTHING QUENCHES THE THIRST OF A 'BIG MAN' LIKE A COOL DRINK OF WATER: A young resident of Hussein Camp in Jabal Hussein takes a moment to drink down some water on one of the summer's more sweltering days (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Ministries study best way to use lands returned to Jordan under peace treaty

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, has begun to investigate what would be the best utilisation of lands returned to Jordan under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, according to Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif.

In a statement to Al Rai and the Jordan Times, the minister said the most feasible use of the estimated 2,300 dunums located in the Wadi Araba region and in the northern parts of the Kingdom was farming.

Concerned authorities will divide the lands into units allotting at least 80 dunums of land for each farming project in order to ensure sufficient profit.

The minister said that the utilisation of these lands could, on the other hand, be undertaken by private sector companies. If the JVA decides on this option, he said, the companies will have to finance the infrastructure work, the drilling of the wells and laying the irrigation network systems instead of the ministries and the JVA.

Apart from expertise and



Mansour Ben Tarif

National companies have expressed interest in developing land for profit in similar ventures as those in the Disi districts where cereal is being grown, the minister said.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government and potential investors held a meeting on Sunday to review the delays and problems impeding the use of state-owned land on the shore of the Dead Sea for tourism projects.

The meeting, the third of its kind after the government invited project proposals from investors, reviewed the status of applications for leasing land.

The meeting decided to extend until Aug. 31 a deadline for investors to submit additional details of projects and to reduce leasing fees.

Instead of JD 2,500 per dunum per year, the lease was reduced to JD 1,000.

But investors said they still hope that the government would further reduce it or allow yearly payments instead of the sought-for bulk payment for 10 years in advance.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat, who chaired the meeting, said the delay in finalising the applications so far was mainly

due to the slow formation of what he described as a comprehensive national strategy for tourism in the country.

"The development of the eastern shores of the Dead Sea should be compatible with that of the Aqaba area" on the Red Sea, the minister told the meeting.

He expressed hope that Sunday's meeting will be the "last but one" before the issue is streamlined.

More than 60 project proposals — for hotels, health spas, recreation centres and other facilities for tourists — have been submitted to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), which owns most of the land on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.

Some of the proposals were submitted more than one year ago, and complaints were heard before Sunday's meeting that little logic could be found to explain the delay.

The area under immediate consideration is about four square-kilometers, and many questioned why it was taking so long for the authorities to study the proposals.

Rassam Kofash, who has

submitted two proposals — one for a JD 2 million tourism village and other for a JD 1 million floating restaurant — said he was frustrated by the delay.

"We already own the seven dunums of land where we plan to build the JD 2 million tourism village," Mr. Kofash said.

As such, he noted, his application was not for leasing/buying state-owned land, but for approval of the project.

Referring to the government's argument that infrastructure services, mainly water and power, were not immediately available in some of the areas, Mr. Kofash said his firm, Jordan Tourism Village Company, could easily arrange these facilities on its own.

"We have built our own access road to the tourism village," said Mr. Kofash. "We are ready to bring in our own generator for power and make our arrangements for water."

"If the delay in approving the projects continues, then there will be perhaps one hotel and restaurant in the

area after three years," he told the Jordan Times sarcastically.

A representative from a local consulting company, Hani Haki, which conducted a study on developing the Dead Sea shore in partnership with a French firm, also addressed the meeting, outlining perceptions of development projects and the related advantages and disadvantages.

Mr. Haki said it was a mistake to view the western (Israeli) shore of the Dead Sea as well developed and offered the best of services to tourists, who mostly flock there for therapeutic treatment.

Israeli hotels are located two kilometers from the sea shore and people have difficulty getting to the beachfront from the hotels, he said.

Access roads are not good, and Israel does not have enough hotel rooms either, he said.

"On a scale of 10," in terms of proper facilities, "Jordan may have nine points and Israel has three," according to the consultant. Not many of the audience

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FUHEIS FESTIVAL

\* Concert by Wadi Al Safi at the main theatre at 9:00 p.m.

\* Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, the late Jordanian Prime Minister, Wasfi Tal, Al Rai's Arabic daily's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract and children's art.

### FILM

\* "Pella in Jordan" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m. (Film will be followed by a commentary by Dr. Pam Watson.)

### PLAY

\* "The Maids" (written by Jean Genet) starring Majid Al Qasas

and Najwa Kondakji at the Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Abstract art by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

\* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

\* Exhibition demonstrating the developments of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

## JWA announces annual literary contest

Amman (J.T.) — The Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA) announced its fifth annual literary competition which will accept literary entries from individuals until the end of the year.

The competition, designed to discover talented writers 18 years old and over, is open to Jordanians only.

Applicants are invited to submit their plays, short stories, poetry, children's literature, and novels in Arabic.

According to association spokesperson Basel Rafaa'ah, works are not limited in length, "because it is difficult to limit creativity." Mr. Rafaa'ah said that not even short stories will be required to have a limit.

The works will be judged by a secret committee of five people, who are also members of the association, Mr. Rafaa'ah said.

Mr. Rafaa'ah added that he personally oversees the publication of the works of the three winners of the contest in the weekly cultural section of Al Rai Arabic daily. Winning does not mean

automatic membership in the association, according to Mr. Rafaa'ah, but the writers will remain "in touch" with the administrative committee in the association to allow them the opportunity to participate in seminars held locally and abroad.

The grand prize winner will receive JD 100, second prize is JD 50, and third prize is a collection of association books.

The prize money is symbolic, Mr. Rafaa'ah said, adding that the winner gets the benefit of being judged a writer by the most prominent cultural institution in the country.

In 1993, according to Mr. Rafaa'ah, Jordanian writer Muflah Adwan won first prize in this competition and went on to win the Mahmoud Taymour prize organised by the Higher Council for Culture in Egypt.

The number of participants for this year's event is expected to be between 200-300 competitors, half of whom are women, Mr. Rafaa'ah added.

## 4 international firms show interest in oil exploration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four international oil companies have said they are interested in studying the prospect of entering into oil exploration projects in Jordan, the National Resources Authority (NRA) Director General Fakhri Daghestani Sunday said.

Dr. Daghestani declined to reveal the names of the four companies but said that his department was hoping to start negotiations on a production sharing agreement with at least one of these companies before the end of the year.

Minister of Energy and

Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh said in April that Jordan was ready to offer attractive terms to foreign companies interested in exploring for oil in the King-

area.

He said that the NRA also received a bid from another international company seeking to conduct natural gas exploration studies again in northern Jordan.

Dr. Daghestani said that the average cost of such geological studies is \$500,000. The arrangements that Jordan would be seeking would stipulate that the company conducting the study would bear the costs, he said.

He added that no final agreement on oil prospecting can be reached without approval from the Council of Ministers.

## Lebanon seeks more trade with Jordan

BEIRUT (Petra) — Lebanese Minister of Economy and Trade Yassin Jaber Sunday described his country's trade exchanges with Jordan as progressing well and stressed that Lebanon was seeking economic integration with Jordan and Syria.

The Lebanese minister said that Lebanon was trying to promote trade exchanges with Jordan and adjust the balance of trade with the Kingdom which is currently in favour of Jordan. According to 1994 statistics, the minister said, Jordan sold Lebanon products worth \$28.2 million while Lebanon bought \$22.85 million in Jordanian goods.

Mr. Jaber said that Lebanon was seeking to arrange a Jordanian-Lebanese meeting at ministerial levels to discuss means of encouraging economic cooperation.

## Taiwan shows off air power as thousands demand reunification

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Taiwan showed off its air force Sunday in a bid to boost public confidence amid right-wing protests and a newspaper report that China is planning a third military drill of the kind that prompted the current crisis.

Thousands of right-wing protesters marched through the capital demanding reunification with the mainland from which the island split in 1949. Some called for President Lee Teng-Hui to resign.

Just days after China announced a second round of missile drills set for this week off Taiwan's north coast, the Taiwan military made sure its celebrations of Air Force Day, which falls Aug. 14, were widely broadcast on TV and radio.

Some 50,000 civilians gathered at the Chingchuan-gang air base in the central city of Taichung to witness demonstrations of battle tactics and flying stunts and inspect hardware, the air force headquarters said.

"Like the government's investment rescue package, to boost the plumping stock market, the air show was more or less intended to increase public confidence," said Hu Fu, professor of political science at National Taiwan University.

On Thursday, China announced it would follow its week-long drills in July with a series of missile tests from Aug. 15-25 off Taiwan, sending

the local stock exchange into free fall.

As the stock market index dropped more than 200 points Friday, the government announced a string of measures to channel money into the house to stabilise it.

On Sunday the United Evening News, quoting an unnamed official, said China would hold a third round of military manoeuvres at the end of this month.

Police estimated the number of protesters at 7,000, but organisers claimed they had 50,000 people on the streets.

"Lee Teng-Hui is the source of chaos in Taiwan," said Feng Hu-Hsiang, executive secretary of the Alliance for Democratic Reform, one of the protest organisers.

"Because of his pro-independence stance, the Chinese communists have stepped up their missile threats against Taiwan," Mr. Feng said.

The council believes both the officially-announced missile drills are aimed at ruining President Lee's chances of re-election in elections scheduled for next March.

"The Chinese communists do not want Lee to be reelected next year because they think Lee is leading the pro-independence trend in Taiwan," said Mr. Hu.

He said that by beefing up its military presence and shaking the stock exchange in the hope that business people and other locals here will put pressure on Mr. Lee.

That effect was apparently felt Sunday as the thousands of anti-independence supporters marched down Taipei's

Ties with Washington have

been seriously strained over the Taiwanese President's visit to the United States in June and China's detention of U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu.

Beijing has sharply criticised Washington for allowing Mr. Lee's private trip, claiming it was a violation of U.S. policy to only recognise one China. Washington has reaffirmed its one-China policy in a bid to reassure Beijing.

China resumed nuclear testing May 15 provoking worldwide protests. Japan and other nations have been closely watching whether Beijing planned to conduct more tests.

Mr. Jiang said that China did not plan to stop tests until a global treaty banning nuclear tests goes into effect.

The Asahi Shimbun quoted the Chinese leader as saying Beijing "will stop (nuclear tests) after the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) goes into effect."

The CTBT is now being negotiated for possible conclusion in 1996.

Mr. Jiang told the Japanese daily China's nuclear tests are not targetted at, or are meant to threaten, any country.

He also said that China would not renounce the use of force against Taiwan, claiming that such a pledge would prevent the island's peaceful reunification with the mainland.

## Seoul resumes rice aid to N. Korea after release of ship

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea resumed rice shipments to the rival North on Sunday after Pyongyang released a Southern rice-aid ship and its crew following three days of talks in Beijing. South Korean officials said.

Officials from the two countries were also meeting to set a schedule for a new round of rice talks which when first held last June marked the first official bilateral contact since the death of the North's leader Kim Il-Sung in July 1994.

"The two sides are meeting to set a date for the third round of rice talks. We hope to resume contact with the North," said an official at the Unification Ministry here.

He said Kim Hyung-Ki, assistant minister for information and analysis, would remain in Beijing for a few more days.

The Stalinist North released the 9,400-tonne ship and its 21 crew on Sunday morning after Mr. Kim reached an agreement with the North late on Saturday.

The ministry spokesman said the Samsun Venus would reach the southeastern port of Pohang around 3 p.m. (0600 GMT) on Monday.

After the release was made, South Korea resumed rice shipments to the North which were halted because of the incident.

The 11,365-tonne freighter and its 21-member crew were

expected to arrive at North Korea's Nampo Port on Tuesday, said an official at the Korea Maritime and Port Authority.

The Samsun Venus was held by the North after Pyongyang said a sailor, Lee Yang-Chon, took photographs of Chongjin Port, where the ship had docked to unload 5,000 tonnes of free rice.

South Korea expressed regret over the incident and assured the North it would not happen again. Seoul also agreed to resume rice aid to the North as earlier scheduled.

"Then the North will bring up the subject of Park Yong-Gil," the ministry official said.

Ms. Park is widow of Moon Ik-Hwan, one of the South's best known dissidents.

Pyongyang has warned if South Korea prosecuted Ms. Park, it would have an irreversible effect on relations between the two Koreas, still technically at war since their 1950-53 conflict.

Souls officials hope the rice talks would lead to regular high-level talks to discuss detente on the divided Korean Peninsula.

**Democracy in Seoul**

Riot police launched a massive tear gas attack Sunday on some 2,000 radicals who occupied the streets of central Seoul to demand the indictment of two former South Korean presidents involved in a 1979 coup.

**Unification Ministry**

official told Reuters the third round of talks was unlikely to focus on the rice issue.

Instead the talks would cover the release of another trawler and its eight-man crew, seized by a North Korean patrol boat off the west coast of the peninsula in

## U.S. presidential candidates court Ross Perot's followers

DALLAS (R) — A parade of U.S. presidential candidates on Saturday portrayed themselves as soldiers in Ross Perot's battle against the political status quo, assuring Mr. Perot's followers they had the power to make significant change.

"Our time is coming, our time is coming," shouted Republican political commentator Pat Buchanan, who was also a candidate in 1992. "I can't do it without you. I need your help. We will take back Washington, D.C., and we will take back America for the things we believe in."

"Go pat go," chanted the audience of roughly 5,000 members of Mr. Perot's United We Stand America (UWSA) political organisation.

Former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, another Republican presidential candidate, said he accepted Mr. Perot's invitation to address the three-day convention in Dallas "because the revolution has gotten stuck."

"We should end Washington's involvement in welfare," Mr. Alexander said. "That's how the revolution

gets unstuck."

We've got a lot of problems," he said. "But we have more opportunity to change them than any other country in the world."

The crowd of mostly white, over-50 Perot supporters came to Dallas from all 50 states at their own expense to push for government change.

"I do not want to hear about who slept with whom or who used what drugs in

about who runs for president," said Ken Ogle, a UWSA member from Dallas.

"But I want the budget balanced by 2002, the welfare corrected, term limits on officeholders and restructuring the tax code."

"I do not want to hear about who slept with whom or who used what drugs in

college," Mr. Ogle said. "I just want to get the country back on track."

Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire who bankrolled his own independent presidential bid in 1992, said his goal for the conference was to educate voters so that they "cannot be manipulated" by campaign spin tactics.

"I do not care so much

think smoking is OK," he said. "We used any marketing trick to make you want to smoke."

Mr. Clinton renewed his campaign against teen smoking in the United States on Saturday, introducing a former cigarette company executive who told a national radio audience: "In my lungs and throat where the smoke used to be, there is a cancer that is killing me."

Victor Crawford, a former tobacco industry lobbyist now employed by the American Cancer Society, bolstered Mr. Clinton's argument that the industry uses advertising to create the kind of glamorous images and peer pressure that lure youngsters to cigarettes.

"Kids, cigarettes are bad for you and they are killers," Mr. Crawford said.

Mr. Crawford, 63, was a lobbyist for about five years in the late 1980s for the Tobacco Institute, the industry's voice at the Capitol. He also is a former Maryland state senator.

"I was part of a well organised campaign that depends on young people like you to

make cigarettes available only over the counter. It would forbid cigarette companies from sponsoring sporting events and advertising their brands on sportswear. It would call for cigarette ads in magazines with a large teen readership to be printed only in black-and-white without the glamorous and sexy symbols intended to appeal to teen-agers."

Cigarette companies also would be required to provide a \$150 million fund to be used to discourage youths from smoking.

He said advertising aimed at young people creates millions of new smokers, one third of whom will die of cancer and other smoking-related diseases. He said young people are "victims of billions of dollars of advertising campaigns designed by psychologists."

"Some one has to stop this; that's why I decided to act," Mr. Clinton said.

His plan would ban cigarette vending machines, making cigarettes available only over the counter. It would forbid cigarette companies from sponsoring sporting events and advertising their brands on sportswear. It would call for cigarette ads in magazines with a large teen readership to be printed only in black-and-white without the glamorous and sexy symbols intended to appeal to teen-agers."

Cigarette companies also would be required to provide a \$150 million fund to be used to discourage youths from smoking.

Mr. Clinton noted that cigarette makers have "said they don't want to encourage teens to smoke, but questioned why they went to court to block his proposals."

"My duty is to protect the health of our children, and I won't back down," the president said.

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole (left) and wife Elizabeth react as United We Stand America founder Ross Perot comments on Mr. Dole's speech (AFP photo).

Photo: AP



**POLLUTION ALERT:** The Eiffel Tower basks in atmospheric pollution at mid-day Saturday. Automobile emissions reacting with high temperatures and strong sunlight for several weeks again pushed the level of ozone into the danger zone, and a "Level-2" alert was broadcast for the capital region by authorities (AFP photo)

## Ivorian president says controversial election code to remain in force

ABIDJAN (R) — President Henri Konan Bedie, on a charm offensive in Muslim regions of Ivory Coast ahead of elections starting in October, has said a disputed electoral code is here to stay.

Mr. Bedie ended a trip to mainly Muslim towns in the west on Saturday with a speech denouncing attacks on the code by his rivals, including Muslim ex-Prime Minister Allassane Ouattara.

"The electoral code is simply the strict application of the constitution," Mr. Bedie said in the western town of Mankono.

"The electoral code in force is a case which is closed for the whole nation, a closed case which is in fact an ardent obligation for the citizens of our country," he added.

He did not, however, explicitly rule out minor changes.

State television broadcast Bedie's comments on Saturday after his return to the business capital Abidjan.

The outgoing parliament, where Mr. Bedie's Democratic Party has an overwhelm-

ing majority, approved the code in December.

Critics say it was conceived to stop Mr. Ouattara standing.

Mr. Ouattara himself describes the code as "iniquitous" and says it rules him out of the Oct. 22 presidential election.

A Washington-based deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he lost a brief tussle with Mr. Bedie to succeed veteran President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

Mr. Bedie, national assembly speaker when Mr. Houphouet-Boigny died in 1993, took over under the terms of the constitution.

Mr. Bedie, who will be formally chosen as his party's candidate in two weeks, is anxious to become elected president.

If Mr. Ouattara does not stand, his main rival will be veteran opposition politician Laurent Abagbo of the left-leaning Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), who lost to Mr. Houphouet-Boigny in 1990 in the country's first multi-party

presidential election.

Mr. Bedie support groups have mushroomed across the country. State television regularly features reports on them.

Mr. Bedie himself has been touring Ivory Coast explaining his government's policies, outlining benefits for the country and individual regions and pledging to look at grievances.

He has repeatedly stressed the need for social harmony if the country is to enjoy the fruits of an economic recovery taking shape after the January 1994 evaluation of the CFA franc used in much of Francophone Africa.

Ivory Coast, which is slipping into recession in the late 1980s, predicts growth of over six per cent in 1995.

In Mankono on Saturday, Mr. Bedie said the electoral code had been thoroughly debated and democratically approved and urged his listeners to resist or ignore what he called the "intellectually dishonest" campaign against it.

## Europeans continue beating up on France over nuclear tests

PARIS (AP) — Denmark's Royal Theatre cancelled a Paris tour set for next month and Spanish demonstrators heckled two French naval ships Saturday to protest France's plans to resume nuclear tests.

It was the latest in a firestorm of opposition to President Jacques Chirac's plans to resume underground nuclear tests from French Polynesian Atolls in the South Pacific before signing a permanent test ban next year.

A growing number of countries have slapped France with economic boycotts, hoping to force it to scrap its plans to conduct seven or eight more blasts.

The director of the Danish Royal Theatre, Michael Mortensen, said Saturday he spooked the tour of opera and ballet events after consulting with the party of Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. The Danish premier rode a bicycle from Copenhagen to Paris earlier this month to protest France's test plans.

Charles de Gaulle, who brought France into the atomic age in 1960, authorised 30 test explosions.

## Zaire fed up with Rwandan refugees

KINSHASA (AFP) — Zaire's growing irritation with the more than one million Rwandan refugees camped in the rich eastern province of Kivu boiled over this week when the authorities here blamed the murder of six Italian tourists on a refugee gang.

The protesters said in a statement that they feared new nuclear tests could destabilise the Atolls, "which already contain radioactivity equivalent to many times that which was released during the catastrophe of Chernobyl."

France has been testing nuclear weapons in the South Pacific for more than 30 years. By far the greatest number of tests came under Mr. Chirac's predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, who authorised 86 explosions during his 14-year term before he announced a moratorium in 1992.

If more attention had been paid to the likely repercussions on regional security of the prolonged presence of the refugees, such incidents as Sunday's slayings could not have happened, the spokesman said.

There are about 720,000 refugees of the Hutu tribe in the Goma camps and about 350,000 in camps near Bukavu.

## Russia gets tough in Chechen peace talks 'Chechens foil attempt to assassinate Dudayev'

GROZNY (R) — Two Russian ministers joined peace talks in Grozny Sunday, threatening to take a tough line with the rebels who they accused of ignoring a military deal.

Chechen rebels alleged they had foiled an attempt to assassinate separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, saying the Russians were trying to upset the peace process.

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov flew to the southern region Saturday to help Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov and other Russian delegates push forward implementation of a military deal reached two weeks ago.

The Russian side intends to take a tough position, because the fulfilment of the agreement by supporters of rebel leader Dzhokhar

Dudayev is so far negligible," Mr. Mikhailov said on his way into talks in the regional capital Grozny.

The deal, meant to provide for the disarmament of the rebels in return for a partial withdrawal of Russian forces sent to Chechnya in December, has so far had little practical effect.

Chechen rebels, pushed to the mountains of southern Russia in six months of fighting, have treated it as a victory while largely refusing to give up their arms.

Taking advantage of a shaky ceasefire, they now ride past Russian checkpoints on the lowlands of the tiny region cocking a snook at frustrated troops.

In what appeared to be more an attempt to appear than frustration than a real

threat to restart the conflict, Mr. Kulikov said the rebels would have to disarm.

"If the Chechen side insists that the regular army of the republic does not disarm, we will unilaterally continue to disarm Mr. Dudayev's illegal armed formations by force," he told ITAR-TASS agency Saturday evening.

Chechen rebels showed reporters the dark blue vehicle. Under each of the seats were what appeared to be plastic-type explosives with wires sticking out.

They also showed electrical devices which they say would have enabled Russian special service agents to track the vehicle from a helicopter and detonate it upon demand.

"We had information through our secret service that the vehicle was loaded with explosive equipment. It was also obvious from the fact that wherever I drove it, helicopters followed behind me," said Mr. Kurbanov.

Russian delegates to the talks in Grozny were not immediately available for comment on the allegations.

confiscated Aug. 4 by Russian military officials at a checkpoint in Roshni-Chu, 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny, as he travelled to peace talks in the Chechen capital.

Three days later, he said, it was returned to him by Russian officials outside the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) where the talks are held.

"We had information through our secret service that the vehicle was loaded with explosive equipment. It was also obvious from the fact that wherever I drove it, helicopters followed behind me," said Mr. Kurbanov.

Russian delegates to the talks in Grozny were not immediately available for comment on the allegations.

The official said Mr. Hosokawa expressed "profound remorse and apologies for Japan's action in the past that inflicted deep scars on so many people including prisoners of war."

Mr. Hosokawa was the first Japanese prime minister to clearly describe Japan's role in World War II as "aggressive" and "wrong."

Japanese government leaders have used words such as "remorse," "regret" and "reflection," to acknowledge the wrong decisions it made before and during World War II.

But no government leader has ever publicly "apologised" for past misdeeds, an act that would anger right-wing activists as violating the honour of individual soldiers who fought in the war.

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# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

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## Refugee away from politics

**THE DEFECTION** of Iraqi Minister of Industry General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his entourage to Jordan has attracted, and rightly so, immense political interest, here in Jordan, in Iraq itself and throughout the world. This is not the first time, however, that an important Arab national seeks refuge in another Arab country and probably will not be the last. In the absence of sufficient democratic institutions in the Arab World, many discontented officials rightly or wrongly resort to defection as a means of addressing their grievances whether genuine or not. What is needed, therefore, is a new understanding whereby the receiving state does not pay a price for granting asylum-seekers refuge within its borders, as indeed international law requires it to.

Within the Arab framework especially, an Arab state that serves as host to refugees often becomes a suspect in the eyes of the country from which the asylum seekers come. Politicising the granting of a refugee status, though, should not be the ultimate consideration on the part of the affected countries. A generally satisfactory solution can be easily found if the whole issue of asylum is viewed in a strictly legal manner and away from the spotlight of politics. In the case of Gen. Hassan Jordan has neither asked for his defection nor encouraged him to come here. Jordanians were caught by surprise by the event just as much as the Iraqis were.

The latest episode in inter-Arab politics should make us reflect on the need to articulate a precise policy on refugee seekers and to apply it uniformly on all concerned people in an indiscriminate manner. The Arab World cannot follow double standards in this vein and must be consistent and fair under all circumstances. We cannot surrender some refugee seekers or accept others in an arbitrary manner. Otherwise our countries will continue to suffer from the state of mutual fears and suspicions that we have had to live with for many years now.

Above all we must agree on a code of conduct under which acts of refugee taking or giving are not used for political purposes. The granting of asylum or refugee status to any person is a strictly humanitarian issue that should remain so at all times.

With regard to Iraq in particular, the fallout from the defection of members of President Saddam's own family could have serious repercussions on Iraq's quest for easing the international sanctions. We do have a vested interest to promote the lifting of those sanctions and as a matter of fact Jordan has been trying its best to attain this objective out of concern for the Iraqi people who have suffered enough. It would thus be most unfortunate if Tuesday's defection was allowed to be used as another reason for prolonging the Iraqi people's torment and suffering.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN DOES not see any justification for tension in relations with Iraq while Baghdad feels the same way and has openly declared its stand in the wake of the escape of a prominent Iraqi minister to the Kingdom, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tareq Aziz has denied Western reports about alleged massing of Iraqi military forces near the border with Jordan and mocked at the rumours which he said are designed to ruin relations between the two Arab states, said the writer. The American media's attempt to stir trouble in the area, the writer said, is designed to justify the American stand with regard to the continued sanctions on Baghdad. The writer said that there can be no danger posed to Jordan from Iraq but that the real danger lies in the American policies and Washington's persistence on harming the Iraqi people with total disregard to humanitarian considerations. It is true that the situation in Iraq is very difficult and people are facing hardships, but this is all because of the continuation of the embargo and the Western nations' drive to destroy the Iraqi people, added the writer. He said Jordan can by no means strain its relations with Iraq as it has no interest in doing so and it is clear that Iraq has the same feeling towards the Kingdom.

BACKING a call by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi for the creation of a public society to care for the archaeological and historical sites in the Amman region, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that this is a very essential step required to help safeguard the national heritage. Nazif suggested that the Amman Municipality allocate JD 200,000 annually from its own budget for the purchase of old homes that bear the traditional architectural style as a first step towards achieving the aspired goal.

## Human Rights File

### Israeli practices weakening cause of peace

AS WE continue to amend our laws so that they reflect faithfully our commitment under the peace treaty with Israel, we notice that the Rabin government is not doing the same to the extent necessary. A prime example of this incomplete translation of the peace accord between the two sides is the Israeli law entitled "the implementation of the peace treaty between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 1995." Article 6 (A) and (B) of this new legislation purports to reinterpret what constitutes an "absentee property," in the light of the new peaceful relations between the two countries. While this provision stipulates that as of Nov. 10, 1994, Jordanians can own or purchase real-estate within Israel and the West Bank and that any such property will no longer be construed as absentee property, it continues to regard all real estates owned by Jordanians prior to that date as absentee properties. Not only within Israel proper but also in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

This is an untenable position as indeed our ambassador to Israel, Dr. Marwan Muasher, has recently told Al Quds Arabic daily newspaper in East Jerusalem, and can never be accepted by Jordanians. The retention of this provision as it is currently interpreted by the concerned Israeli authorities especially the director of the absentee Properties Department, would make a mockery of the new relationship between the two countries and is a cause for alarm as it suggests that the Israeli government is not totally faithful to what it has agreed to with Jordan.

How can properties in the West Bank owned by

Jordanians continue to be regarded as absentee lands or houses when we have in place a peace treaty that has supposedly erased all residues of hostility between the two parties. We all thought that we are opening a new chapter in the Israeli-Jordanian relations based on full recognition of each other's rights and duties and the cancellation of all the legal effects of the past era. This is the normal course of action whenever two states agree to end their state of war and replace it with a comprehensive peace treaty.

I therefore hope that the Rabin government will show greater sensitivity to this Jordanian concern and change the relevant article in the law accordingly. Allowing Jordanians who have real-estate with a status of absentee properties the right to institute legal actions on the individual level to remove this status does not solve the problem. Instead of individual or even-class legal actions, the Israeli law itself needs to be changed so that the objectionable state be rectified automatically. Meanwhile, we should put on hold the current plans to amend our legislation that pertaining to the rights of Israelis to own properties in Jordan pending the resolution of this sour point. I suggest, therefore, that the two sides should form a committee for this purpose with a view to synchronising what Jordan is doing with what Israel is not doing to translate the peace treaty into reality.

In this context, I certainly make a distinction between Jordan properties situated within Israel proper and those which exist in East Jerusalem and the parts of the West Bank. The former category of properties will be the subject of negotiations at the third stage of the Israeli-Palestinian

peace talks when the final status of the Palestinian refugees of 1947-48 would be hopefully determined. Israel is on record as not agreeing to the return of thousands of Palestinian-Arabs into areas within its borders but is not on record as being against their compensation. According to the relevant U.N. resolutions, these early waves of Palestinian refugees should exercise a choice between repatriation to their original homes and cities or towns or accept just and equitable compensation.

Whether the final resolution of this particular thorny subject would be made on the basis of international legitimacy or on the basis of the third and final stage negotiations should not have a bearing on the properties of Jordanians situated in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank. These territories form a distinct and a separate issue from similar properties situated within Israel itself. The West Bank has never been formally or informally annexed by Israel. East Jerusalem also remains a territory subject to future negotiations even though Israel purported to annex it in spite of the objections and non-recognition of the international community.

I believe there is still time to rectify this serious omission in the new Israeli legislation that aims to implement the peace treaty with Jordan. The Jordanian ambassador in Israel has already signalled awareness of this problem and expressed total rejection of it. Hopefully, the Israeli side would accept its immediate rectification to avoid further exacerbation of the issue.

The belief in a and prompted render ha atom bom

By Peter Pop

THE END of the w Pacific is usually d roughly thus: Japan rejected the Allies' ultimatum in the Potsdam Conference. President Truman, to drop the bomb, Nagasaki — where Japan capitulated.

This version of the war has become the wisest for two reasons. We know everything to be known about those first atomic bombs. Nuclear events in the Pacific, nothing else, in the course of the world, except perhaps the cause — has received exhaustive attention. It gave in a sense lived shadow ever since. In history man has experienced the terrible acts, taken the mantle of the gods, buried thunderbolts, days in August 50 years ago, set the fire. So we need to believe the consequences were indeed epic.

The second reason, although the dropping of the bombs was swift and with such apparent searching, their effect was ghastly that their excited furious anger since. At the extreme it has led to mutual comparisons between Hiroshima and Australia, longing to be in both Europe and Asia, it was fighting a god war in the first. Suddenly found itself a principal monster on its way to return to its original way to claim victory necessarily. The bomb dropped. Within eight days surrendered. For the bombs ended the war. Thereby half a million American lives and millions of Japanese lives saved. The bomb was terrible, but it was worse. Nevertheless, the men have never been buried. It is a scar that can historians and journalists cannot resist picking game they have continued to replay in their heads to make sure they comprehend. What would have happened if the atomic

Jordanian

against Baghdad: he urged Arab and Western countries to open dialogue with Baghdad to pave the way for involving Iraq in the Middle East peace process.

But with the U.S. unlikely to consider direct dialogue with Saddam, Jordan, which has been forced to support the U.S. in one Washington has shown signs of dealing with it.

Even though he does contacts with the U.S. Gen. Hassan is believed to have in fact met with Al

also official reporters in Amman on Saturday that he is keen on recommending Iraq's relations with Arabs and all other states to help him lift the sanctions imposed against it.

While admitting that it doesn't move to grant its opponents or Press

Saddam will help speed Jordan's reconciliation with Gulf states.

The Indonesians say much of the infrastructure of roads, bridges, schools and public housing development has been built by the so-called army territorial troops as part of its dual function as a development force.

But the politicians agree saying that by turning back on President

Jordan would be quick. News agencies on Saturday reported that a Saudi Prince Hussein met with the

Issue of the defec

## Way out from a dead end

Croatian victory in the Krajina could lead to ethnic cooperation, says Martin Woollacott, if the U.N. prevents a refugee exodus and helps the exiles to return

CROATIAN victories in the Krajina bring possibilities, good and bad, that are intertwined in the usual hellish Yugoslav way. One is for the progressive defeat of the rebel Serbs of Bosnia. Another is for further confirmation of the cruel absurdities of ethnic chauvinism. Yet another, not so new, is for the survival of the main author of the war through the expedient of sacrificing those he led into it.

A victory against the Serbs which is also a victory for ethnic cleansing, through the flight of Krajina Serbs to Bosnia, is not a victory to be relished. The check to the Serbs which was needed has been administered. For both military and psychological reasons, the path for the remaining illicit Serb state will be downhill. But from this point on there will be many choices, in Zagreb, in Sarajevo, even in Pale, which will either confirm the separation of the peoples of Yugoslavia or begin the painful process of restoring some elements of cooperation and even cohabitation. Similarly there will be decisions which either legitimise Slobodan Milosevic and make him into the pillar of the final peace that he wants to be or which, perhaps after a period of initial assurance, undermine him.

The advances in the Krajina have turned the conflict in former Yugoslavia into a two-front war. Since the lines were frozen in Croatia in 1992, the rebel Serbs have been able to concentrate their fire on the Bosnians, squeezing them from both sides, at earlier times with active Croatian help. Now they themselves are in the vice. Never again will

the Bosnian Serbs be able to forget about the Croats while pouncing on the Muslims, or vice versa.

It is also true that the Serbs now have a more compact territory and that the addition to Ratko Mladić's general reserve of the regular elements of the Krajina forces makes up a big strike force. So the Serbs are both weaker and stronger, but nevertheless much more on the defensive than before.

The entry of the regular forces of Serbia into the equation would abruptly change this. But Slobodan Milosevic is not in the same situation as his old adversary, Franjo Tudjman. For Tudjman, going to war is the key to political dominance, giving him an unassailable lead over domestic opponents, ensuring victory in the next election. For Milosevic, not going to war is the key. His status in Serbia rests on his claim that he can keep the country out of trouble and out of a real war. That does not mean that he will not continue to push supplies and men over the borders, and that he may even increase them. But there are very clear limits to this cover support.

Croatia and Bosnia are allies, an agreement on full military cooperation having been signed only a few weeks ago. There is no reason why the Croatian forces should not at least go on to free completely the Bihać pocket, defeating the forces of the rogue Muslim leader, Fikret Abdic. They could go further. The extent of Croatian-Bosnian military and political cooperation in the future is one of the important decisions that touch on the central

ethnic question: Are we merely going to have a victory over the Serbs, or are we going to have some kind of victory over ethnic chauvinism as well? It would be silly to say that the first is not worthwhile without the second, but how much better to have both.

Just as important as the objective change in the military situation is the psychological change. It is difficult to over-emphasise how much the rebel Serbs have depended in their self-dramatisation on their success in war. High above the Adriatic, where the signs "Zimmer, Chambres, Rooms" swing in the breeze outside the shuttered pensions, the lands of the rebel Serbs begin, stretching hundreds of kilometres to the borders with Serbia proper. It is, in the main, poor country, made the poorer by its isolation from the prosperous coast and from most of the main industrial zones of central Bosnia.

Of the pre-war population of 1.6 million in the two rebel republics, nearly half has left. The only industry worth the name is military. The principal male occupation is that of soldier. The towns are dismal, their factories at a standstill. Agriculture, deprived of fuel and fertiliser, has reverted to the horse and the ox. This is the crippled realm into which

the tanks of the Croatian Army burst this weekend, puncturing the myth that somehow, Serbian military prowess could make up for all these other deficiencies.

It is symptomatic that within a few hours of the Croatian attack, the leadership of the Bosnian Serb republic was embroiled in a crisis that would be comic if it did not involve some of the most brutal men in the Balkans. Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić were at each other's throats at a moment of maximum danger for their people and for what they say is their cause. Nothing could better illustrate the truth that without military success the Serbs of Bosnia and Croatia have nothing — nothing that is, except fear and guilt.

We can see in these quarrels the hand of Mr. Milosevic who appears to be using Mr. Mladić to try to unseat Mr. Karadžić, blaming the latter for the Krajina disasters, even though Mr. Mladić is undoubtedly more responsible for the failure there. Mr. Milosevic kept it in being while it appeared disadvantageous to dispose of it, and now it has disappeared because the Serbian president has a longer game in mind. Mr. Milosevic dropped the Krajina, and all 150,000 of its people. The same thing may happen soon to Radovan Karadžić or even to Ratko Mladić, and the ordinary Serbs of the Bosnian republic.

Today, in the past, the singular flaw of Western diplomacy remains its dependence on Mr. Milosevic. The trouble with the Croatian victory is that it may reinforce this dependence.

The Krajina was like a strut on an unfinished bridge. Once it was clear that the coast could not be reached, it was useless. The cynicism of Mr. Milosevic kept it in being while it appeared disadvantageous to dispose of it, and now it has disappeared because the Serbian president has a longer game in mind. Mr. Milosevic dropped the Krajina, and all 150,000 of its people. The same thing may happen soon to Radovan Karadžić or even to Ratko Mladić, and the ordinary Serbs of the Bosnian republic.

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Between 1976 and 1992 income per capita rose from 40,000 rupiah to 500,000 rupiah (\$18 to \$225) in 1992, government statistics show.

While some nations have recognised Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor, the United Nations still regards Portugal as the administering power.

In the same period, illiteracy fell from 93 per cent

to 25 per cent, school attendance rose from seven per cent to 75 per cent. Higher education graduates rose from 10 to 700 and a new university in Dili meant 1,000 were taking degrees.

The 20 km of asphalt road the Portuguese left behind was extended to more than 1,000 km by the Indonesians by 1992.

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Palestinian refugees returned to Israel in large numbers but this was not the case. According to these early waves of refugees, there were choices between cities or towns or even particular towns.

This particular town was chosen as the final destination, on the properties of which it was built and the rest of the town within Israel itself remains a territory controlled by Israel purporting to non-recognition.

Recruitment to this town is thus international, and final stage on the properties of which it was built and the rest of the town within Israel itself remains a territory controlled by Israel purporting to non-recognition.

This version of history has become the received wisdom for two reasons. We know everything that is to be known about the horror of those first aggressive nuclear explosions. No events in the Pacific War — nothing else in the whole course of the World War II except perhaps the Holocaust — has received such exhaustive attention. We have in a sense lived in their shadow ever since. If ever in history man has executed terminal acts, taken on the mantle of the gods and hurled thunderbolts, those days in August 50 years ago were the time. Somehow we need to believe that the consequences were correspondingly epic.

The second reason is that, although the decision to drop the bombs was taken swiftly and without much apparent heart-searching, their effects were so ghastly that their use has excited furious argument ever since. At the most extreme it has led to hysterical comparisons between Hiroshima and Auschwitz. America, long to believe that in both Europe and the Pacific it was fighting "the good war," in the final act suddenly found itself recast as principal monster. The only way to rebut such charges was to claim overwhelming necessity — and efficacy. The bombs were dropped. Within eight days Japan surrendered. Therefore the bombs ended the war. Thereby half a million American lives and millions of Japanese lives were saved. The bomb was horrific, but it was worth it.

Here the argument begins. Some of those who want no return to the Kraut. They could try to halt the flight who remain, and organise the return who have already fled. The argument has never been clinched. It is a scab that American historians and journalists cannot resist picking, a game they have continually to replay in their heads, to make sure they come out morally on top. As the blurb of a new book on the end of the war puts it: "What would have happened if the atomic bombs

The belief that Hiroshima and Nagasaki was the threat of a prompted Japan's surrender has given the made Japan capitulate atom bomb unique political potency. In fact, it

By Peter Popham

THE END of the war in the Pacific is usually described roughly thus: Japan rejected the Allies' ultimatum at the Potsdam Conference. President Truman decided to drop the bomb. Hiroshima was destroyed, then Nagasaki — whereupon Japan capitulated.

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Kyoto, the old imperial capital, had been completely spared until then, thanks to the lobbying of American Japanophiles in Washington. But in the case of Tokyo, there was nothing much left to hit. The raids of March 9 to 10, 1945, which killed more than 100,000 and left a million homeless, were the most destructive of the whole war, including Hiroshima. Yet the B-29s had continued to return to bombard the capital. Although the bombers were explicitly banned from

targetting the imperial palace, a firestorm started by a raid on May 26 destroyed 27 buildings in the palace complex and killed 28 members of the emperor's staff, while Hirohito, the empress and their attendants huddled in their shelter 60 feet below ground.

Bombing, even atomic bombing, is subject to the law of diminishing returns. Kyoto would have been a tragic loss though it is doubtful whether at that juncture even the Japanese were in a mood to worry about temples and rock gardens. But the Americans were running out of targets. More than 60 cities and already been burnt. Millions of civilians had been evacuated to the countryside, including all but 200,000 of the population of Tokyo. The economy was at a standstill. The infrastructure was in ruins. No work was being done, nothing was being manufactured. The only thing another bomb could do was kill more people.

The theory that Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war rests on the assumption that the Japanese authorities were concerned about the fate of ordinary Japanese people. But if this had been the case, the war would not have been prosecuted in the way it was. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, for example, the Japanese forces stampeded through Southeast Asia and the islands of the Pacific, occupying Burma and reaching New Guinea before they were checked. So rapid was their advance that they far outstripped their lines of supply. The result was that, when they encountered Allied resistance, they quickly began to starve. The numerous cases of Japanese soldiers killing and eating Australians, New Guineans and even each other is nothing to do with their bestiality as human beings and everything to do with the bestiality of their supreme commanders in Tokyo.

From early on in the war, Japanese soldiers were called on to make the ultimate sacrifice — to throw away their lives, either through starvation or banzai charges or, later, kamikaze attacks. When, in mid-1944, the war began to reach Japanese

## Jordanian option is not yet spelt out

(Continued from page 1)

against Baghdad; he also urged Arab and Western countries to open dialogue with Baghdad to pave the way for involving Iraq in the Middle East peace process.

But with the U.S. unlikely to consider opening a dialogue with Saddam Hussein, Jordan might find itself forced to support someone Washington has shown signs of dealing with, and Jordan's new stand towards the Iraqi regime.

Even though he denied contacts with the U.S., Gen. Hassan is believed to have in fact met with American officials in Amman. He also told reporters on Saturday that he is keen on mending Iraq's relations with Arabs and all other states to help him lift the sanctions imposed against his country since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

While admitting that Jordan's move to grant asylum to opponents of President Saddam will help speed up Jordan's reconciliation process with Gulf states, some Jordanian officials claim that Jordanian-Iraqi relations are irrelevant to the Kingdom's quest for improved relations with the Gulf.

But the politicians disagree saying that by turning its back on President Saddam, Jordan would be winning over the Saudis and Kuwaitis more easily and quickly.

News agencies on Sunday reported that a Saudi prince Saturday met with King Hussein for talks on the issue of the defection of the

Iraqis. The reports came amid talk of an impending visit by Foreign Minister Kabariti to Riyadh this week which would be aimed at paving the way for Jordanian-Saudi summit at the end of this month.

The timely visit by the Saudi prince, according to diplomats, is indicative of some kind of a link between Jordanian-Gulf relations and Jordan's new stand towards analysts.

But while U.S. President Bill Clinton was quick to announce his backing for Jordan's moves and assured King Hussein that he will protect the country from any possible military threat by Iraq, the top Iraqi defector believes that such a threat is likely.

"It would be suicidal," Gen. Hassan said when asked how Iraq might respond to Jordan after the defections, adding that for years now, Jordan has been the only gateway to Iraqis.

Baghdad needs us as much as we need it, if not more, some Jordanians believe. "I, as Jordanian, do not mind paying a higher price for oil, if that will, in the long run, benefit our neighbours," says Dr. Shaer in reference to a highly "unlikely" decision by Iraq to stop supplying Jordan with oil.

He adds that any such move by Iraq would be countered by Jordan's closing its border with Iraq, which would be "very damaging for them."

## Deputies criticise move

(Continued from page 1)

sovereignty and stability."

Dr. Amoush said any change in Iraq should come from within and "if they were seeking a base let them take the U.S. as the base about them having contacts with the Americans before fleeing the country was true."

The Zarqa deputy appeared to suggest that the defection was arranged with the U.S.

"Jordan has a proven record of never meddling in the internal affairs of sovereign states. But we do not have any political ambitions to do so," says the official, who asked not to be named.

Others, however, say that while Jordan had no choice but to grant the Iraqi group asylum, the Kingdom has not and has no interest in ruining its relations with Baghdad and vice versa.

"Iraq is in no position to ruin its relations with Jordan, nor does Jordan any interest in shaking its good relations with Baghdad," says Hamada Faraneh, a columnist for Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The defection of the Iraqi minister and his group should teach the Iraqi regime a lesson so that it would "try to widen its social and political system to represent the majority of people rather than the minority," Mr. Faraneh wrote in his daily column on Saturday.

Britain "remains eager to maintain its close and regular contacts (over the situation in the rump Yugoslavia) with Jordan who is one of the major contributors to the United Nations forces in Croatia," the statement said.

Britain is part of the contact group that was set up by

Western nations to negotiate a settlement to the conflict,

which has pitted the Serbs

against both the Bosnian

Muslims and Croats.

None of the deputies referred to the government spokesman's comment on Saturday that Jordan's policy on Iraq remained unchanged.

Another leftist deputy, Mustafa Shuneikat, demanded that the government clarifies Jordan's position and explain why the defectors "who have good knowledge of Iraq's secrets" "Jordan will be responsible not only for ensuring their safety and security but also for protecting the information they have," said Ms. Faisal.

Deputy Faisal warned that other Arab countries will lose confidence in Jordan "that once showed solidarity with Iraq and now turned against Iraq and now turned against

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through China, ferocious battles were fought with the Red Army on the Siberian and Mongolian borders, and if the crazier voices in the Japanese army and cabinet had had their way, Japan would have gone to war against Russia soon after Germany did, watching on the Soviet-Japan Neutrality Pact that had been signed in April 1941. At this point, however, some semblance of sanity prevailed, and Japan drew back.

As the war developed "not necessarily to Japan's advantage," in Hirohito's famous phrase, Japan's relationship with the Soviet Union began to assume even greater significance; its neighbour's neutrality bulked large in the hopes and fears of Japan's rulers. On April 3, 1945 the Soviet Foreign Affairs Commissar, Molotov, informed the Japanese ambassador that once the neutrality pact expired in April 1946, it would not be renewed. Japanese intelligence reported a massive movement of Red Army troops and supplies toward the Manchurian border. A clandestine transmitter began inciting Manchuria's large Russian population to revolt; the Japanese consul general in Harbin told Tokyo that he believed it was part of a campaign to give the Soviets a pretext for invading Manchuria. The Japanese began to worry. If they had known that Stalin had promised the other Allies he would enter the war against Japan within three months of Germany's defeat, of course, their alarm would have been considerably greater.

In its desperate attempt to keep Russia sweet, Japan launched a manic diplomatic offensive: Offering to give up Manchuria, carve up China, and flood the Soviet Union with raw materials from the lands Japan had conquered (something it was in no position to do). Most bizarrely, on June 14, the former foreign minister Koki Hirota offered the Soviet ambassador, Jacob Malik, the prospect of a Soviet-Japan will increase her naval strength in the future," Hirota told the Russian, "and that, together with the Russian army, would make a force unequalled in the world." A proposal more insanely remote from Japan's actual circumstances is hard to imagine, unless it was to offer to cooperate in a moonshot. Malik, who must have had trouble keeping a straight face, said he would study the proposal.

## Israel approves accord

(Continued from page 1)

Settlers had erected at the site and set some of them on fire. The only settlers at the site fled.

More settlers arrived in cars and opened fire on the Palestinians, wounding at least one of them, a photographer at the scene said. The photographer said settlers also smashed his equipment and assaulted him.

Aharon Domb, a settler spokesman, said in a statement: "This morning Arabs from Dura Al Qara ... burned the house that was built on the hill ... several shacks were also burned." Mr. Domb made no mention of any wounded.

Qassis was shot in the chest, and carried off the hill on a rough wooden ladder by other Palestinians. He died shortly afterward at Ramallah hospital.

Yoav Barak, secretary of Beit El, said one of the settlers fired into the air in "self-defence," but denied that the bullets struck anyone.

Policemen appealed to the Palestinians to return the young man's body.

Settlers have been occupying hilltops in the West Bank since last month trying to block self-rule spreading to more of the West Bank from Jericho and the Gaza Strip where it began in May 1994.

Palestinians until Sunday had done no more than demonstrate against the settlers. Some Palestinians have been angered that troops do not immediately remove settlers from every hill illegally occupied.

**Iraq offers to provide data**

(Continued from page 1)

he wanted to do while still here instead of fleeing with millions of dollars? That is the way cowards behave."

Prices have soared since the high-level defections.

Traders said a kilo of cooking oil had jumped to 2,500 dinars from 2,000 and a tray of 30 eggs to 3,500 from 2,500. They said flour was in short supply.

The Iraqi dinar has tumbled to new lows against the U.S. dollar, which on Sunday was worth about 2,000 dinars.



## Soames arrives in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

out of Kuwait and has been director general of the Saudi armed forces project since 1992.

In a statement issued prior to Mr. Soames' arrival, the British embassy in Amman said Britain will continue to strive for a political and diplomatic solution to the war in former Yugoslavia.

Britain "remains eager to maintain its close and regular contacts (over the situation in the rump Yugoslavia) with Jordan who is one of the major contributors to the United Nations forces in Croatia," the statement said.

Britain is part of the contact group that was set up by Western nations to negotiate a settlement to the conflict, which has pitted the Serbs against both the Bosnian

Muslims and Croats.

British officials have said

shoulder its responsibility to protect the Bosnian people or allow them the right to defend themselves by lifting the arms embargo.

Recent Serb attacks on areas declared safe havens by the United Nations have fuelled Arab and Muslim anger at the West's reluctance to check the Serbs against humanity" in Bosnia, warning that it considers the arms embargo on Bosnia invalid.

Britain, along with the Western allies, oppose the lifting of the sanctions on Bosnia and Herzegovina on the grounds that such a move would only lead to the escalation of hostilities in the Balkans.

Jordanian officials have said that the West should either put an end to the Serbs' atrocities.

## Syria to boost olive output by 50%

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria is launching an agricultural plan to increase olive production by around 50 per cent over the next five years, an agriculture ministry official has said.

Hassan Katana, chief of planting, said his ministry was planning to reduce 680,000 tonnes of olives in the year 2000 from 435,000 tonnes in 1995 by expanding the area planted.

Olive plantation was mainly in the hands of the private sector which receives free guidance from the ministry, he said.

He did not disclose the cost of the plan but said the scheme would increase the number of olive trees from 53.7 million to 63 million. The ministry will provide olive saplings at symbolic prices to farmers.

The private sector is allowed to sell its production of olives and olive oil locally. It was allowed to export olive oil in 1993 when a surplus was achieved.

He said the increase would allow Syria, whose citizens are among the biggest olive oil consumers in the world, to boost its exports of olive oil.

Syria became self-sufficient in olive production in 1992 when it produced around 400,000 tonnes. Annual consumption is estimated at about the same amount. In 1993 Syria exported 30,000 tonnes of olive oil.

Syria's production this year dropped to 435,000 tonnes of olives from \$10,000 in 1994, Mr. Katana said.

A surplus of 20,000 tonnes of olive oil was ready for export.

## World Bank soon to try 'micro loans' to globe's poorest

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, in an initiative that blends business and development, soon will provide funds for "micro-loans" to the earth's poorest people, primarily women, officials said Sunday.

Donor nations, banks and institutions have pledged \$200 million for the micro-loans. Three-fourths of it will go to institutions that lend mainly to women. About \$30 million has been collected so far. Disbursement will begin in two or three months.

"Women are the focus," said bank vice president Ismail Serageldin, chairman of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), created in June to implement the micro-loan strategy.

The poorest, landless, most destitute heads of households are women," she said, and they also face many obstacles to gaining credit. Property rights favour men and many times, a man is required to co-sign a loan that goes to a woman.

By aiming at the poorest segments of society, a focus on women was inevitable, Mobina Malhotra, administrator of the programme, said in an interview Thursday with Reuters.

"The poorest, landless, most destitute heads of households are women," she said, and they also face many obstacles to gaining credit. Property rights favour men and many times, a man is required to co-sign a loan that goes to a woman.

Nonetheless, poor women have a stellar record in repaying loans. Aid officials also note that women's income goes to activities that promote family welfare, such as education, better diets and health care.

"We see this as a new model" for development programmes, Ms. Malhotra said, by encouraging lenders to reach a segment now often unable to get loans.

"We're really looking at transforming the way financial institutions work," she said, describing the projected and banks that have a record in lending to the very poor.

Mohammad Yunis, president of the Grameen Bank in Pakistan, which works with two million poor borrowers, will chair a panel of expert advisers to CGAP.

"This is the most significant event in the world of micro-finance. This is a beginning to a new future," he said.

In a report on a similar topic, the International Food Policy Research Institute,

based in Washington, said women were "an untapped source of productivity gains" in food output in developing nations.

"If women were given the same resources as men, developing countries would see significant increases in agricultural productivity," the authors of the report, "Women: The Key to Food Security," said. They cited lack of access to credit as one of the inhibiting factors.

## Low oil prices depress Arab income in 1994

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab oil export earnings fell by nearly 5.5 per cent in 1994 due to a drop in crude prices caused by excess output by several producers, according to an official Arab report.

The income of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), which controls 60 per cent of the world's crude, stood at \$82.4 billion in 1994 compared to \$87.2 billion in 1993. OAPEC said in its 1994 annual report published in the Paris-based Arab Oil and Gas magazine.

The 1994 figure is the lowest since 1989, when OAPEC's revenues plunged to \$78.5 billion, said the magazine, obtained here Sunday.

Oil prices averaged \$15.50 barrel in 1994 compared to \$16.33 in 1993 and \$18.44 in 1992.

In 1990 during the Gulf

crisis, prices surged to nearly \$40, pushing Arab oil earnings to a seven-year high of \$96.5 billion.

The report showed Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) suffered most from the price fall, with their revenue dropping to \$38.3 billion and \$11 billion in 1994 from \$41.3 billion and \$13.5 billion respectively.

Libya, another key OAPEC member, also saw its revenues shrink to \$6.9 billion from \$7.6 billion.

Kuwait's earnings increased to \$10.2 billion from \$9.5 billion due to a rise in its production to two million barrels per day (b/d) from around 1.8 million b/d in 1993.

Earnings also increased in Egypt, Bahrain and Algeria and declined in Syria, Qatar and Tunisia. Iraq, which produces around 500,000 b/d for local consumption because of

continuing low inflation over the coming months.

Wholesale prices are a good barometer for future inflation trends, allowing to determine a trend before prices percolate down the system.

The Labour Department

has announced that consumer prices had risen by 0.2 per cent in July, in line with predictions.

The latest figure was "very good" even if the rate was picking up, according to Dennis Smith, an economist at the Conference Board, a New York institute.

The core rate, which excludes food and energy, was up by 0.2 per cent in July.

Over the first seven months of the year, consumer prices increased at an annual rate of 3.1 per cent, compared to 2.7 per cent over the same period last year, the Labour Department said.

But the steady price production index for July, due mainly to a drop in energy prices, shows that inflation is well under control, Mr. Smith added.

Economist Donald Rataczak of the University of Georgia said that the weakness of raw material prices for July was a good sign of

people's confidences," he said.

The official added that the economy still had potential to recover on the back of steady domestic demand such as corporate capital investment.

The erosion of the U.S. dollar, the official currency for oil prices, over the past two decades sharply depressed the organisation's income in real terms, according to the report. The 1994 revenue of \$82.4 billion is equivalent to only \$29.8 billion at the 1973 dollar value.

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## U.S. indicators suggest moderate inflation, growth

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The latest U.S. economic indicators suggest that Federal Reserve (Fed) efforts to counter inflation without bringing about recession are showing signs of success, analysts have said.

The Labour Department has announced that consumer prices had risen by 0.2 per cent in July, in line with predictions.

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## Iran deflects effects of U.S. oil trade ban

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran has minimised the impact of a U.S. trade ban by finding alternative markets for its crude oil in Europe, Asia and South America, an Iranian oil source said Sunday.

"We have had a general policy of trying to diversify our customers and only a few months after the ban was imposed we have been successful to a large extent in lowering the effects of the embargo," the source told Reuters.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has done its best to seek other markets in countries such as South Asia, Europe and South America. The feedback has been good," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source would not say how much crude Iran had sold or planned to sell to those markets.

U.S. companies lifted an estimated 600,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude oil, worth about \$4 billion a year, before President Bill Clinton's ban on U.S. firms trading with Iran took effect in June.

Dealers estimate that Iran has sold around 30 per cent of the oil previously bought by U.S. firms to Mediterranean customers in extra spot sales.

The Iranian source said Tehran's ability to maintain crude oil prices underscored the failure of the U.S. embargo.

"We have been successful in selling our crude oil and keeping its price almost intact and competitive. This shows that NIOC has been able to tolerate the situation," the sources said.

Washington accuses Iran of sponsoring international terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear weapons, charges repeatedly denied by Tehran.

The trade ban has pushed Iran, the second largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), to increasingly resort to the international shipping market.

The source said the efforts to offset the U.S. trade ban was reflected in the fact that Iran's National Iranian Tanker Co. (NITC) has ordered new tankers from South Korea and other countries and accelerated chartering activity.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Begin this new week properly by getting in touch with any persons of big ideas who can be helpful to you in business.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) Any group which can help you gain your aims should be contacted this morning and their alliance gained.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 22) You can be very creative at your career and this is a good day to do your best at such. State your finest ambitions.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have some fine talents which should be made to work for you this morning, so concentrate on them later today.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on home and family today and how best to improve the situation there. Be most careful in driving on the highway.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Have talks with regular partners and make better plans for today. Improve operations considerably at tasks you need to complete.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 21) Study the profit you are getting for any tasks completed today and see if it is satisfactory. Try to be more generous with your loved ones.

**SCORPIO:** (October 22 to November 21) You are inspired to gain your ambitions today, so don't waste any time but get busy on them and get good results.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Have a quiet, thoughtful conversation with your family and plan what is best to do later today and tonight.

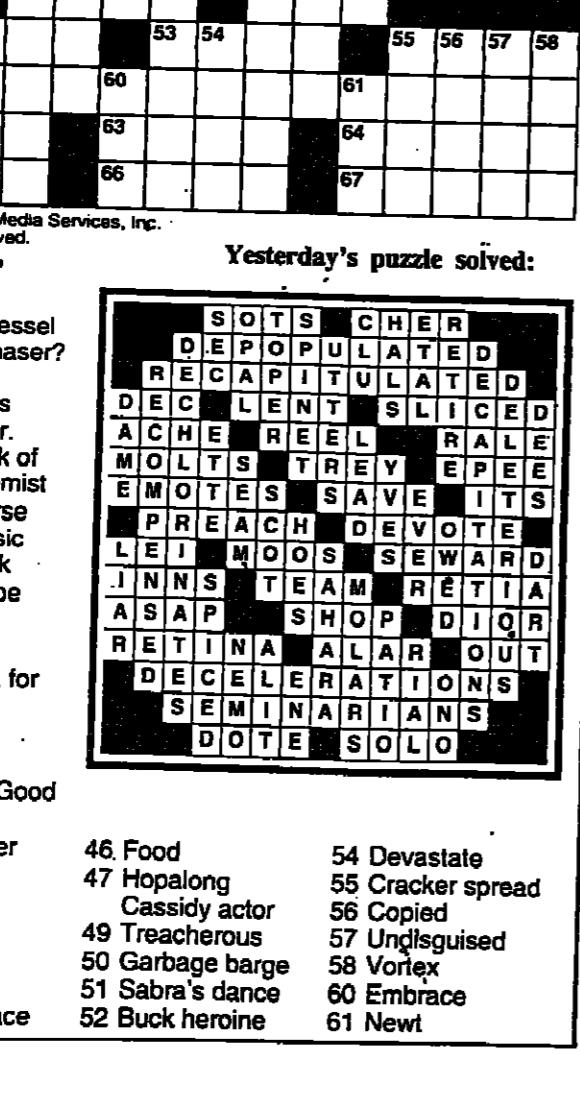
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If you are more direct with your friends today, all of your lives can be made better, more inspiring.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can begin getting support you need from a bigwig where a monetary interest is concerned.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You have a new plan in mind which can bring you closer to your personal with it.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Yesterday's puzzle solved:



est

in Washington, were "an important factor in productivity and output in developing countries."

If women were given more resources as men, significant increases in national productivity would be achieved. The key to this is access to credit, he initiating factor.

effects

trade ban

Dealers estimate that

sold around 30 per cent of previously bought

customers in extra spots

Iranian source

the oil prices under-

failure of the U.S. sup-

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HOROSCOPE

RECAST FOR 14

THOMAS S. PIE

Carroll

Foundation

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year by getting in

any persons of big

can be helpful to you

business.

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S: (February 19 to

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mind which can be

over to your perso-

day, so carry them

(Al Ra'i).

**business  
Daily  
beat**  
A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

**Consumer  
protection  
society sees  
unfairness in  
income, sales  
taxes**

**THE NATIONAL** Society for the Consumers Protection is demanding that sole proprietors be given a 50 per cent exemption of their earnings from the income tax, similar to the percentage given to public and private sector employees. Moreover, the society demanded in a memorandum sent to the speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament, that the ceiling under this exemption be raised from JD 7,200 to JD 12,000 annually. The society also called in its memorandum to deduct fees paid to schools, from the taxable net income of a person, up to a ceiling of JD 500.

The memorandum said that both the sales tax and income tax provided some relief to the poor limited-income class of the society but, on the other hand, provided the better off class with larger benefits. As such, the burden was shifted to the middle class which, under these laws, will erode and slide to the poor class (Al Ra'i).

**THE NEW 1995** telephone directory for Amman will be on sale to the public in Arabic and English next week after being checked by the Telecommunications Corporation which has already received the first Arabic copy. The directory will be printed in batches, the first of 5,000, to be delivered next week (Al Dustour).

**DUE TO** higher exchange rates for the Swiss franc and the Deutsche mark against the dinar, the prices of drugs imported from Germany and Switzerland were recently increased. Sources at the Ministry of Health said the price increase was slight and did only reflect 50 per cent of actual change in the currency value (Al Aswag).

**THE MINISTER** of energy and natural resources said the decision to close the quarries in Ajloun was taken because they were not properly licensed and because they were causing environmental damages to the region. The minister said Ajlouni obtained licences for land reclamation from the Ministry of Agriculture, but as it turned out, they used it as a pretext to open quarries and sell stones (Al Ra'i).

**THE JORDAN** National Shipping Lines Company decided to purchase a new cargo vessel at a cost of \$6.25 million, bringing the number of vessels in its fleet to five. The company also intends to buy a sixth vessel before the end of this year to specifically transport bulk products.

According to Yaser Al Tal, the company's general manager, the new vessel is a multi-purpose Brazilian-made ship, having a 7-year operational age and able to carry 15,000 tonnes. Purchased with financing from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank, the new vessel the second carrier bought by the company this year. Named the Blue Horizon, the new vessel will be carrying phosphate and potash to Indian ports alongside other leased ships. Mr. Al Tal pointed out that the company, now capitalised at JD 7 million, had made profits in excess of JD 15 million since it was set up in 1980. Asked about joint marine transport between Jordanian and Israeli ports, Mr. Al Tal said the matter was still not clear. However, he said that "if we could consolidate our current drive to reduce the Suez Canal fees and put enough incentives to marine freight companies in Aqaba, then the Israeli port's activity on the Mediterranean and the Red Sea will not have much effect on Aqaba (Al Ra'i).

## Windows 95 may leave consumers breathless, confused

**WASHINGTON** (APP) — Microsoft's new Windows 95 operating system, coming out Aug. 24 in the biggest global product launch in computer history, may leave the average personal computer user dazzled but also confused.

Microsoft, which makes the underlying software running 80 per cent of the world's personal computers, has refined this system to make it cleaner, faster and brighter, with a host of new capabilities.

Windows 95 users will have full "multitasking," or the ability to run two or more operations simultaneously, such as sending faxes while checking spelling on a report and remaining connected to an on-line network.

A reorganized "desktop" will make it easier to see what files are available, and this can be customised for different family members. Opening programmes and files will also be simplified, and getting rid of unwanted files will be as easy as dragging an icon to a "recycle" bin.

File names won't have to be limited to eight characters, as in the old system. So users can label their files "Letter to Mom" instead of "letrom.mom.doc."

They will also get improved protection against computer viruses and a single location to receive electronic mail and fax communication.

"I think it's going to make computing much easier for the average person," said JoAnne Springer, assistant editor of Computer Life magazine. "In the usability tests we did, we found that people who don't know computers find this much easier to use."

"I'm really pleased. It will

make using computers an effortless, natural and enjoyable process," said Rick Shaddock, a Washington computer instructor who has

Windows 95 is

greedy in its need for computer memory and hard disk storage space. Microsoft maintains the new software can be installed on computers

95 capabilities is not yet on the market. So "plug and play" may not work for some equipment and existing software may be no faster than on the current Windows 3.1 version.

Some computer buffs argue that Windows 95 is simply catching up with the operating system of Apple's Macintosh, which has had user-friendly features like a "trash can" and multitasking capabilities for a decade.

Meanwhile, for millions of

people with existing PCs and Windows software, the decision on upgrading is a difficult one.

Microsoft is offering the new software to existing Windows owners at under \$100, yet most users will face far higher costs in upgrading their systems.

For one, Windows 95 is greedy in its need for computer memory and hard disk storage space. Microsoft maintains the new software can be installed on computers

standard in the United States several years ago, with Intel 386 processors and four megabytes of RAM, or operating memory.

But reviewers who have tested the new system suggest the system works best with the newest computers on the market, with Pentium microchips, generous hard drives and eight to 16 megabytes of RAM. Upgrading these items could cost several hundred dollars.

Without a CD-ROM play-

er, users will need to juggle 13 floppy disks to install Windows 95.

Owners of older computers "would be best off not upgrading" if they're happy with what they've got, says Gregg Keizer, an Oregon-based freelance writer specialising in computers.

"Any company staying on the cutting edge of technology will eventually have to use it," said Bob Walker, a business consultant with Advanced Systems, Inc. "It will be a necessity for any modern corporation. You may not have a choice."

users, particularly in business, will have to adapt to Windows 95 sooner or later, if for other reason than the dominance of Microsoft in the operating systems of new personal computers.

"Any company staying on the cutting edge of technology will eventually have to use it," said Bob Walker, a business consultant with Advanced Systems, Inc. "It will be a necessity for any modern corporation. You may not have a choice."

Despite the questions, computer experts note that

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## Dominique Wilkins leaves NBA to join Panathinaikos of Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Dominique Wilkins has left the Boston Celtics to sign with a professional team in Greece.

Panathinaikos Athens said Saturday it had signed the 2.03-metre (6-foot-8) forward. Press reports said Wilkins, 35, signed a two-year contract for \$7 million, the richest contract for a player outside the National Basketball Association.

Wilkins had two years remaining on his contract with the Celtics, but his contract contained a buyout clause.

Recently, Wilkins was involved in a dispute with the team over an \$8.4 million loan he claimed he was owed. Because of the NBA lockout, the team said he wasn't entitled to the money.

Celtics officials could not be reached for comment.

Panathinaikos and its archrival Olympiakos are Greece's

two major teams. In the last two seasons, Panathinaikos finished third in the European Championship behind Olympiakos.

Drafted in 1982 by Utah, Wilkins played more than 11 seasons with the Atlanta Hawks before being traded to the Los Angeles Clippers in February 1994 in exchange for Danny Manning.

His best season was 1985-86, when he led the NBA in scoring with 30.3 points a game.

In July 1994, Wilkins signed as a free agent with the Celtics but wasn't a success. Coach Chris Ford benched him early in the season, and Wilkins averaged just 17.8 points, his lowest average since his rookie season, and shot a career-low 42 per cent from the field.

## World Athletics Championships

### O'Sullivan, Pedroso set the record straight

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — Smiling Sonia O'Sullivan set the tone at the world championships here on Saturday. It was time to prove a point and set the record straight.

O'Sullivan at last took the title many felt she should have won two years ago when she was swept aside by a Chinese clean-sweep.

Her 5,000m win on Saturday also earned her a slice of history as she became Ireland's first woman world champion.

The dramatic decline, however, of Qu Yuxia — who led in that 3,000m triumvirate ahead of O'Sullivan in 1993 — and the rest of Ma Junren's former force has worried many athletics commentators since.

O'Sullivan, who trains in London with a stable of world-class Kenyans, simply wanted to prove the point that she was world champion material.

"I did what I came here to do," she said. "Which was to bide her time before destroying double-seeking 10,000m champion Fernanda

Ribeiro of Portugal over a scintillating final 300m.

Cuban Ivan Pedroso also proved a point.

The 22-year-old left 1991 and 1993 gold medallist Mike Powell — nine years his elder — knew that his reign as the world number one is over as he leapt 8.70m for the long jump gold.

He also let the International Amateur Athletic Federation bosses know that they may rule out his "world record," recorded just before the championships, but they cannot take his new-found status away from him.

Pedroso jumped 8.96 in Italy last month to overtake Powell's epic 1991 jump in Mexico by a single centimetre but the IAAF are still grubbing over the presence of an official in front of the wind gauge, that windy day.

But actions tend to speak louder than words.

Powell — he even allowed Jamaican 20-year-old James Beckford to edge past him on his final jump — again by a single centimetre — seemed to suggest the

times are changing in favour of fresher faces.

American Allen Johnson did the same in the 110m hurdles, proving the point to yesterday's man Roger Kingdom.

He later surge gave her a championship best 14 minutes 46.47 seconds while the Portuguese runner, all guts to O'Sullivan's grace, took silver ahead of Zohra Ouazziz of Morocco.

American joy over the hurdles — which returned the title to the nation that delighted in Greg Foster's wins in 1983, 1987 and 1991 — was not matched by the history-making sprint relay squad.

Unbeaten in the world championships and the holders of the Olympic title and world record, they blundered like schoolboys, losing in the heats following an abortive change-over between Jon Drummond and Theodore McCall.

Later, the British were run out of their semi-final, ending any chance that Linford Christie, who wrenched his

hamstring as he was deposed in the 100m, might make a dramatic final-day return.

If the American performance seemed casual, Martin Fitz didn't.

The Spaniard — who shares his physical trainer with cycling legend Miguel Indurain, the five-times winner of the Tour de France — showed huge reserves of courage to win the marathon.

Dionicio Ceron of Mexico, the world's best for the last three years, kicked three kilometres from the end of an event that had turned into a two-horse race.

But European champion Fitz dug in despite dropping a dangerous 15m back, crept up again and stormed past to 2hr 11min 41sec.

That time, it seems, will stand. The organisers — unlike the American relay — got it right this time.

They had allowed the women's event at the start of the championships to be run over a course that turned out to be 400m short of the stipulated 42,195.

The researchers did not assess what the lower scores on their tests meant for the daily lives of players. They described their study as an initial sign that the effects of heading on the brain must be studied further.

In the meantime, Witol said in an interview that parents of young soccer players should not panic.

"This is a preliminary study. You don't base a huge decision on whether or not soccer play is horribly dangerous and pull kids out based on one study," he said.

He added, however: "If I had a child, I would discourage him from heading the ball until I had more answers."

Witol is a neuropsychology fellow in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the medical college of Virginia, which is part of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. She presented the study Saturday at the annual meeting of the American psychological association.

"I think Dr. Witol alerts us to a potential problem in this country with soccer and in particular, heading," commented Jeffrey T. Barth, chief of psychology at the University of Virginia medical school.

Russia, without the injured Irina Privalova, the individual 200m silver and 100m bronze medallist, bungled their baton changing and failed to finish.

The United States' only other win in the event came in 1987 at Rome.

Unbeatable Noureddine Morceli staked a claim to the title of all-time great as he sealed a hat-trick of 1,500m world titles.

The Algerian, unbeaten over the distance since the 1992 Olympics, produced a masterly display over the final lap to finish alone in 3min 33.73.

Burundian Venuste Niyongabo, hyped up as the great pretender, lost the silver on the line as the even younger Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco caught him in the straight, clocking 3:35.28.

Sprinter Donovan Bailey anchored the all-conquering Canadians to the 4x100m.

The effect on everyday life, how long the impairments last and even whether they really come from the impact with the ball rather than some other aspect of playing soccer must still be studied, he said.

He also noted that heading is not as common among children as among high school players. He said he would not be concerned about harm to elementary-school players.

The second seeded Martinez beat unseeded Indonesian Yayan Basuki 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) in the day's second

### 'Hitting soccer ball with head may sap mental skills'

NEW YORK (AP) — Soccer players who repeatedly use their heads to whack the ball risk losses in mental skills, says a study that found problems in athletes as young as teenagers.

Players who said they "headed" the ball more than 10 times a game showed lower average scores on tests of attention, concentration and overall mental functioning.

Evidence of harm from less frequent heading was inconsistent, suggesting that some other influence like proper technique might help protect against the effect, said researcher Adrienne Witol.

The study, which included 60 players from high school, college and a professional team, did not test children younger than 14.

But Witol said children may be at risk because they have smaller bodies, weaker neck muscles and less experience in proper heading technique than older players.

The researchers did not assess what the lower scores on their tests meant for the daily lives of players. They described their study as an initial sign that the effects of heading on the brain must be studied further.

In the meantime, Witol said in an interview that parents of young soccer players should not panic.

"This is a preliminary study. You don't base a huge decision on whether or not soccer play is horribly dangerous and pull kids out based on one study," he said.

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## Relegated Crystal Palace, Leicester win on opening day

London (AFP) — Relegated pair Crystal Palace and Leicester made successful starts to their campaigns for a rapid return to the Premiership on Saturday but there was no such joy for Ipswich, who crashed at English First division new boys Filbert Street favourite Steve Agnew levelled for Sunderland.

Palace emerged from a summer of upheaval to clinch a nerve-racking 4-3 win over Barnsley in an exciting clash at Selhurst Park.

Palace's relegation from the Premiership last season was followed by the departure of manager Alan Smith and a series of big-name stars.

The new season started badly, though, when Steve Davis fired Barnsley in front after 12 minutes.

But captain and Republic of Ireland star Ray Houghton levelled after quarter of an hour. Northern Ireland striker Iain Dowie scored either side of the break, and Dean Gordon who wants to leave the club netted a fourth after 60 minutes.

Adrian Vivieash, Port

smouth's top scorer last term, got this season off to a bright start by netting twice in the 4-2 win over Southend.

Pompey's other goals came from a Steve Tilson own goal

and Jason Rees while Andy Thomson got both for Southend.

Dave Gilbert and Chris Malkin scored debut goals to help West Brom and Millwall to victory.

Gilbert, signed this week from Grimsby, gave West Brom a 1-0 home win over Charlton while his former club were punished by ex-Tranmere man Malkin, who helped Millwall to a 2-1 victory.

Alex Rae got the Londoners off the mark from the penalty spot while Steve Livingstone pulled one back for Grimsby after Malkin had struck.

Derek Payne and Richard Johnson ensured Sheffield United manager Dave Bassett had a fruitless return to his former club Watford.

Welsh international Nathan Blake got the Blades' goal in a 2-1 defeat.

Adrian Williams' late effort earned Reading a 1-1 draw at Stoke, who had gone ahead through Ray Wallace.

And Mark Brennan scored twice as Oldham overcame new boys Huddersfield, promoted via the second division play-offs.

Former Aberdeen midfielder Lee Richardson completed the Latics' 3-0 Boundary Park romp.

### Agassi breezes through in soaring temperatures



Andre Agassi

overall mark to 80-9 since the U.S. Open last year.

Agassi has been formidable on hardcourts, with his only two losses from 42 matches on the surface coming to world number two rival Pete Sampras, both in tournament finals.

The winner will face the victor of the contest between defending champion Michael Chang, seeded fourth, and number eight German Michael Stich.

Agassi ran his 1995 record against Swedes to 8-1 and his

again in the first and fifth of the second as he secured victory in 69 minutes.

"He didn't miss and was running me everywhere," said Engquist, who has won three titles on three different surfaces so far this year. "I was like a car without an engine."

"I peaked at the right time against a dangerous player. I hope that I can keep that up for the final."

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Engquist has been formidable on hardcourts, with his only two losses from 42 matches on the surface coming to world number two rival Pete Sampras, both in tournament finals.

"I really attacked well and executed my game plan, which was to hit out on my forehand and get in when I could. I wanted to get her on the move, to mix it up and not hit everything deep, and it worked," said Rubin, who upset Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in the quarterfinals.

While Rubin was aggressive, Sanchez Vicario was a pale shadow of her normal self. Her serve was completely ineffective, she was slow and lethargic, and after the first few games she posed no threat at all.

Martinez reached her second final in the two weeks by ending the run of Basuki, who had upset Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in the quarterfinals.

Although Basuki held four break points at 1-2 in the second set, the Spaniard stayed in control. At 5-3 she held match point, but Basuki saved it with a lob as Martinez complained the Indonesian's serve had been long.

Martinez was surprised she

had such an easy match after being taken to three sets in their last two meetings.

It was never clear whether Schumacher would be fit for the race, but he said: "I feel as good as I can. I think I'm in better shape than I was last year."

Hill's Williams, driving his Williams FW16B, was second in the third place race, a merger of Australian and British teams, in 1994, but last year Schumacher's Benetton team mate David Coulthard, driving a Williams FW17, won the race.

The Williams FW16B, driven by Hill and Schumacher, had crashed in the Belgian Grand Prix last year after hitting a barrier.

Schumacher, 24, had been racing in Formula One for Williams since 1991, and had been the team's points leader in 1994. It was good to see him back in action, having been behind Schumacher in 1993 when he won five races.

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# Sports

## Baseball legend Mantle dies at 63

DALLAS (AP) — Mickey Mantle, whose mammoth swing and country-boy charm made him a larger-than-life hero to generations of fans, died early Sunday from liver cancer. He was 63.

The New York Yankees hall of famer died at 2:11 a.m. EDT (0610 GMT), Baylor University Medical Center said.

Mantle received a liver transplant on June 8. On

July 13, it was discovered that his liver cancer had spread to his right lung, and he was readmitted to the hospital on Aug. 4.

Three days later, it was found that the cancer had spread to include more of his lungs and abdomen despite intensive chemotherapy.

"This is the most aggressive cancer that anyone on the medical team has ever seen," said Goran Klimmalm, director of transplant services at Baylor.

"But the hope in this is that Mickey left behind a legacy. Mickey and his team have already made an enormous impact by increasing the awareness of organ donation. This may become Mickey's ultimate home run."

Many of Mantle's family members, friends and former teammates from his glory day of the Yankees visited him in the days before his death, talking about the times he led them to seven World Series

championships.

Mantle, whose strength helped him 536 home runs, had his health take a downward turn in the middle of last week, and his condition was downgraded to serious.

Blond, handsome, graceful and a muscular with power from both sides of the plate, The Mick was perfect heir to Joe DiMaggio in centre field at Yankee Stadium.

Millions idolised No. 7,

and he rewarded his faithful with the eight-highest home run total in history. He was a three-time MVP in the American League, won the triple crown in 1956 and won four all-home titles, accomplishing many of his fears despite gumpy knees.

Mantle was driving force on Yankees teams that won 12 al pennants. His 18 home runs in World Series play is a record that still stands.

Born in Oklahoma and named for his father's favourite ballplayer — hall of famer Mickey Cochrane — Mantle never lost the soft twang or easy smile that made him popular throughout his career, and beyond. Mantle retired at age 37 after the 1968 sea-

son. "Nobody was gifted with more physical talent," former teammate Tony Kubek said. "He could dominate any area of the game."

It was his life outside the game, however, that he



Mickey Mantle

outcome of liver tests a few months before being admitted to the Betty Ford Clinic.

"The doctor called me into his office and said, 'Mickey, your liver is still working, but it has healed itself so many times that before long you're just going to have one big scar for a liver.' Eventually, you'll need a new liver."

Mantle said he would start some mornings with the "breakfast of champions" — a big glass filled with a shot of brandy, some kahlua and cream.

"Billy Martin and I used to drink them all the time, and I named the drink after us," he said. "Sometimes when I was in New York... and Billy and I were together, we would stop into my restaurant around 10 in the morning and the bartender would dump all the ingredients into a blender. After one drink I was off and running...unless I had a business engagement, I'd often keep drinking until I couldn't drink anymore."

Mantle was the only male member of his family to live past 41. His father died at that age from Hodgkin's disease, a lymphatic cancer; his grandfather died at 40 with the same ailment, as did an uncle. One of Mantle's sons, Billy, also had a long struggle with the disease, then died of a heart attack last year at age 36.

Mantle was the only male member of his family to live past 41. His father died at that age from Hodgkin's disease, a lymphatic cancer; his grandfather died at 40 with the same ailment, as did an uncle. One of Mantle's sons, Billy, also had a long struggle with the disease, then died of a heart attack last year at age 36.

"We thought breaking 3:16 would be good," Olsen said. "This amazing."

Australians were stunned,

but not at the world mark.

They were wondering about their second disqualification in as many days under questionable circumstances over a stroke violation.

Australia's Susan O'Neill was triumphant, then disqualified, then reinstated, in the 100m butterfly, taking gold only because her beset

## Pan Pacific Swimming Championships

## U.S. takes world record while Aussies outraged

### Record holder fails to reach final

ATLANTA (AFP) — Triple world record holder Kieren Perkins knew when he missed 10 days of training with an illness that he would never produce peak performances at the Pan Pacific Swim Championships.

But the Australian distance star came here anyway, figuring the opportunity to race in the 1996 Olympic pool was worth the disappointments the meet has produced.

"No matter how I swim, the experience I have gained was worth it," Perkins said.

"I thought about pulling out,

I decided it was more important to see the Olympic venue and check everything out. We wanted to see how everything works so it's not a surprise next year."

"I know what the Olympic pool is like, where the village is and what security will be like. If you're prepared for it, you won't get frustrated and it won't affect your performance."

Perkins set world freestyle records last year at 400, 800 and 1,500 metres. But the world 1,500m champion was edged for gold by countryman Dan Kowalski in the 800m final. Then Perkins failed to qualify for the 400m final.

"It's not going to cause me to give up or something," he said. "All along I have known next year is a different story. I've no doubt I'll be ready for the Olympics."

Perkins, who turns 22 on Monday, was bed-ridden in late June and struggled with breathing patterns even when he returned to the water.

"My training hasn't been what I wanted," Perkins said. "It was 10 days I could ill afford. I was on the edge of just barely doing what I needed to make it. But the bottom line is Atlanta is a year away."

John Carew, who coaches Perkins, was surprised the Brisbane resident was as slow as 3:54.67 in the 400m heats, trailing countrymen Kowalski and Glen Housman.

"He was working. That was just it," Carew said. "I'm sure he will come back for the Olympics."

"I have no worries he can get it back again. He is sensible enough to know what he has to do to get back here."

Part of his task will be to fight off Kowalski, who has emerged at this meet with three gold medals and one silver entering the final day.

## Hill wins Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST (AP) — Damon Hill started from the pole and led all the way to win the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday, and reigning champion Michael Schumacher's hot pursuit ended three laps from the finish as he coasted off the track.

Hill, 34, who needed a win to protect his job, won his third Formula One race of the season and gained on the German Schumacher, current points leader. Hill's victory was good for 10 points, putting him at 45 points, only 11 behind Schumacher, who has won five races this season.

"It was never over until he (Schumacher) dropped out," Hill said. "It was a nice relief, but I think we would have beaten him if he'd kept on going."

Hill's Williams Renault teammate, David Coulthard, was second, 33.98 seconds behind.

In third place was Gerhard Berger of Austria in a Ferrari, one lap behind Hill.

Schumacher's Benetton teammate, Johnny Herbert of Britain, was fourth, followed by Heinz-Harald Frentzen of Germany driving a Sauber Ford.

Sixth was Olivier Panis of France, driving a Ligier Mugen Honda.

The accident-free race looked in its middle stages like a hot duel between the Briton Hill and Schumacher, who crashed in the British Grand Prix July 16 when Hill did not hit everything that worked.

Schumacher, 26, who was on a working honeymoon after his recent marriage and who's reported transferring to Ferrari next season, was as little as one second behind Hill two-thirds into the race.

But after his third pit stop on lap 48, he never got quite as close, though on lap 69 he was 9 seconds behind Hill and picking up a second each lap.

In the first and second way to the semi-final, though Basuki held points at 2nd set, the Spaniard set control. At match point, but it with a job as complained the Indian was surprised such an easy march taken to three sets last two meetings.

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The bidding:

North	EAST	SOUTH	West
3 NT	PASS	4 0	PASS
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Opening lead: Six of ♠

Hill's partner assumed it up

beautifully in his advice to his assistant, Capt. Hastings: "Use the little gray cells." Logical reasoning will often point the way to the winning play.

North-South reached their sec-

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## Pan Pacific Swimming Championships

## U.S. takes world record while Aussies outraged

friend and roommate,

Samantha Riley, had been

disqualified Friday in the

100m breastroke.

"Charly Mallery, the meet

referee, said that because of

the controversy over the

other disqualification, they

wanted to make sure the

violation was seen by some-

body else," said Australia

Swimming president Evelyn

Dill-Macky. "They asked two

other judges. They had not

seen it, so they decided not to

use it."

O'Neill, whose winning

time of 59.58 was a Common-

wealth record, said she did

not think she would have

been given the gold had Riley

not been banned earlier.

"I'm beginning to think the

Australian team is being

picked on," O'Neill said. "I

couldn't believe it was hap-

pening. I thought they must

be out to get us after what

happened with Samantha.

It's pretty fishy it was two of

us in two days for little

things. And I did nothing

to cause it."

"I was too much to hope that

East held the queen, so there was

nothing to gain from that lead."

By a process of elimination that

left spades. The low spade lead was

## Jordanian popular support for Saddam has dwindled

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordanians who embraced Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a long-awaited saviour during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis now blame him for impoverishing his people.

"It's the Iraqis I care for, not the regime... I supported Saddam but now no longer, because his people cannot find food to eat and he has pulled Iraq 100 years backward," said Subhi Halabi, owner of a clothing shop in central Amman.

Some Jordanians say the defection to Jordan of President Saddam's son-in-law and mastermind of Iraq's military programmes, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, exposed deep cracks within Iraq's ruling circles.

Gen. Hassan's remarks on Saturday that he had lost hope of changing the Saddam government from within have reinforced misgivings many Jordanians had about the man they once loved as the only Arab leader who dared to fire missiles at Israel.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hizbullah attacks Israeli position

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Hizbullah guerrillas rocketed the Israeli position of Dabshe in the "security zone" of South Lebanon on Sunday for the second day running, pro-Israeli sources said. They lobbed several mortars and rockets into the Israeli-occupied zone prompting Israeli artillery to retaliate while Israeli helicopters made reconnaissance flights, sources close to Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said. Hizbullah, in a statement from Beirut, claimed the attack left several casualties and said they destroyed fortifications Dabshe. An Israeli helicopter was seen evacuating the casualties, the militia said. There was no independent confirmation of the claim. Three Israeli soldiers, including an officer, were wounded on Saturday when Hizbullah guerrillas launched a mortar attack on Dabshe, which commands access to the central part of the security zone.

#### Clergymen clash over organ transplants

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's two highest Islamic authorities, the mufti and the sheikh of Al Azhar Mosque, disagreed on the principle of organ transplants in the government daily Al Akbar on Sunday. The mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, issued a "fatwa" or religious ruling that Islam allowed "transplanting the liver from a clinically dead person to a fatally ill patient." He based the ruling on the principle that a patient is dead if the brain and vital organs have stopped functioning even if the heart is still beating. But the imam of Al Azhar, Sheikh Gad Al Hafiz Ali Gad Al Hafiz, differed with the mufti, implicitly calling such a transplant murder. "As long as the heart is functioning the person is not dead. Clinical death is not complete death. So his life must not be ended by removing an organ even if his condition is hopeless," the imam told Al Akbar. Egypt's mufti and the sheikh of Al Azhar have issued contradictory religious rulings on several issues, most notably on female circumcision. Tantawi ruled that circumcision could be banned if doctors advocated it while Gad Al Hafiz said the practice was a religious duty that must be followed.

#### Turkish troops kill 23 Kurdish rebels

DİYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish troops killed 23 rebel Kurdish guerrillas in several clashes in southeastern and eastern Turkey, an official statement said on Sunday. Thirteen members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and a government soldier were killed in a clash near Mazzigir town in the eastern province of Tunceli on Saturday, a statement from the regional governor's office said. Ten rebels were killed in clashes in southeastern provinces of Bingol, Bitlis and Batman on Saturday, the regional governor's office said. 27 rebels were killed in clashes with the security forces. More than 17,500 people have been killed in the PKK's war for independence or autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

#### Nubian museum to open in Egypt in mid-1996

CAIRO (AFP) — The first museum of Nubian antiquities will open in south Egypt in mid 1996, a decade after construction on it was begun, an official with the Egyptian Antiquities Agency told AFP on Sunday. The museum, located in the town of Aswan, will contain 5,000 artifacts discovered in Egyptian Nubia from the pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Christian and Islamic eras. Ramzi Negib, the director of Nubian antiquities, said. "Construction of the museum and its garden of 43 hectares (106 acres) began in 1986 and a total cost of 60 million Egyptian pounds (\$15 million)." Negib said. The garden will display aspects of Nubian life, including a traditional baked-mud house, models of the Nile cataracts and of the Aswan High Dam, he added. Aswan, Egypt's southernmost city, became the centre of its Nubian population after the completion in 1972 of the dam creating Lake Nasser, which submerged the Nubians' traditional lands extending into Sudan. Also known as the land of Kush, Nubia was a semi-independent kingdom during Egypt's pharaonic era. Nubia boasts the two temples of Abu Simbel built by Ramses II (1300-1234 B.C.), which were moved in the 1960 to avoid the rising lake.

#### New York airports on high alert

NEW YORK (R) — New York's three airports went on high-security alert after receiving information from law enforcement officers, officials said on Sunday. The heightened alert followed a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warning of a possible attack by "Islamic radicals," the Long Island newspaper Newsday said. The Port Authority — which manages New York city's John F. Kennedy and La Guardia airports and the Newark airport — would not confirm that report. "At some point on Saturday, there was communication between our agency and the FAA, and a decision was made to elevate security at the airports," authority spokeswoman Joy Faber said. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Arlene Salac said information from law enforcement agencies prompted the high-security alert. She would not confirm the Newsday report.

"The regime has lost its credibility, because Saddam did not present anything... nothing positive has happened over the last five years," said Husam Lutfi, an employee.

Jordanians and Palestinians were once the most enthusiastic supporters of the Iraqi president, staging spontaneous demonstrations of solidarity in both Amman and Israeli-occupied West Bank towns after his invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Riyad Shorbaji, a doctor, said: "All of us supported him at first, pleased he would restore Palestine but our support has gone when we saw how the Iraqi people were unjustly treated and impoverished."

Anjada Al Ramini, a Jordanian living in Saudi Arabia, said it was time President Saddam was overthrown "because the whole world was against him and there was no reason anymore for him to stay... economic conditions necessitate he is changed."

Sultan Abu Zahra, a trader, said Jordanians statically supported President Saddam during the Gulf war "because he exploited their emotions to silence them over his occupation of Kuwait... by firing a few useless Scuds they believed he was the leader who would rid them of Israel."

"The whole attitude of Jordan has changed and the Iraqi regime has lost favour, you only need to see his people sleeping in the streets."

Some blame President Saddam for economic hardships in Jordan.

"What Saddam did in Kuwait was not appropriate in its timing and today with the economic pressures on Iraq and its impact on Jordan, all this has lessened peoples support," said Rafea Mahmoud.

"What have we gained from the Gulf war?... It brought us poverty and calamities and the hatred of other countries," said Ouni Saleem.

President Saddam's few remaining admirers say a comprehensive judgment on his actions will only come in decades, after the secrets of the Gulf crisis are fully unveiled.

## Shin Bet told not to shake prisoners

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's attorney general has ruled the Shin Bet secret police can no longer violently shake suspects during interrogation, the Haaretz newspaper said on Sunday.

In April, Abdul Samed Harizat, a suspected Islamic Hamas activist, died of injuries sustained during a Shin Bet interrogation. A Scottish doctor who attended the Israeli autopsy said his injuries were caused by violent shaking.

According to the newspaper, Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair suggested he would extend other powers of the Shin Bet to use increased force against suspects on condition they stopped shaking prisoners.

Mr. Ben-Yair said shaking was illegal, based on expert medical opinion that it could lead to death or brain damage, Haaretz reported.

Officials from the attorney general's office and the Justice Ministry had no immediate comment on the report.

According to Haaretz, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Police Minister Moshe Shahal back Shin Bet in its claim that violent jerking is useful when interrogating prisoners about planning attacks against Israelis, Haaretz said.

Israel relaxed interrogation rules for its secret police last year after Palestinian militants began a series of deadly suicide bombings against Israelis. Special powers were granted for three months and have been extended twice.

In the late 1980s, a state commission ruled moderate physical pressure was permissible during interrogations of suspected "terrorists." Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists have long criticised the Landau commission's guidelines as a license to torture.

Ten days ago an Israeli ministerial committee extended by a week the powers of the Shin Bet secret police to use increased force.

The ministerial committee is scheduled to meet this week to clarify interrogation methods the Shin Bet may employ. But Haaretz quoted a justice official as saying that Mr. Ben-Yair's ruling on shaking meant the committee would have to rule out at least that method.



AIR FORCE GRADUATION: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday attends the graduation ceremony of a batch of air force officers at the Command and Staff College. The graduating students included officers from the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Pakistan and Malaysia as well as Jordan. The ceremony was also attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Prince Hamzeh, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and senior officials (Armed Forces photo).

## Iraqi refugees doubt defector can topple Saddam Hussein

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Iraqi refugees said Sunday they were suspicious of the high-ranking army officer who defected from Saddam Hussein's inner circle and doubted he could rally enough support to undermine the Iraqi strongman.

"I'm sure that Saddam will be able to contain this family crisis," said George Daoud, an Iraqi refugee who is a civil engineer.

Hussein Kamel Al-Majid, President Saddam's son-in-law and the man who headed Iraq's weapons programme, told a news conference Saturday that he was in contact with Iraqi opposition inside and outside Iraq as part of an effort to topple President Saddam.

But Iraq's many opposition groups have long suffered from internal feuding and have been unable to build a united front against President Saddam. In addition, refugees said General Hassan was responsible for many of the abuses carried out under President Saddam's rule, and therefore lacked credibility as an opposition leader.

Gen. Hassan, a confidant of President Saddam for nearly two decades, said Saturday that he wanted to remove his father-in-law from power in order to end Iraq's isolation and turn the country into a "modern" state.

But one Iraqi refugee, a former university professor who's now a waiter at an Amman restaurant, said Gen. Hassan "did not offer a clear programme to us and he was not even mention that he was considering the liber-

ation of Iraq or respecting human rights."

"I beg King Hussein not to protect Hussein Kamel," said the 65-year-old Iraqi as he sipped his coffee at an Amman coffee shop. "Hussein Kamel is as evil as Saddam."

Jordan gave asylum to Gen. Hassan, his brother Saddam, their wives, children and army escorts after they fled to Amman on Tuesday. Altogether they numbered about 30.

They join more than 30,000 Iraqis who have fled their homeland to Jordan in the aftermath of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait.

Jordan, which depends on Iraq for its oil supplies, has not allowed Iraqi exiles to use the Kingdom as a base to rally opposition against President Saddam. It is unlikely that the defectors will be permitted to use the refugees to build an anti-Saddam front.

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## Egyptian sentenced to 4,000 lashes in S. Arabia

CAIRO (AP) — Amnesty International says that an Egyptian national, Mohamed Ali Sayyid, has been flogged 3,400 times as part of a 4,000-lash sentence given for theft by a Saudi court.

Egyptian human rights officials said Sunday they were checking the report, obtained over the weekend from the London-based Amnesty.

The Amnesty report said Mr. Sayyid, who is in his 30s, was believed arrested in 1991 and had been denied family visits and legal representation since. The exact nature of the theft charges was not known.

The report quoted former prisoners in Al Qassim province as saying Mr. Sayyid was being subjected to 50 lashes every two weeks and also was serving a seven-year prison term.

Amnesty said the floggings were administered in a market place by a policeman using a metre-long bamboo cane.

"Each flogging session is said to leave Mohammad with bruised or bleeding buttocks and unable to sleep or sit for three or four days afterwards," the report said.

On the other hand, a Somalis radio station backing Gen. Aideed's faction radio attributed the incidents to banditry.

Three other people were also wounded in southern Mogadishu on Sunday when the Wardhigley Islamic Court, run by Murasadeh religious men, attacked and dismantled a roadblock mounted by gunmen. The court security man was

among the wounded.

Meanwhile, six militia businessmen threatened on Sunday to stop operations at the Mogadishu seaport by 12,000 local time (0900 GMT) on Monday, if Gen. Aideed failed to pay them \$8 million Somali shillings (\$13,538) they had used to purchase a forklift from the retreating U.N. Operation Somalia (UNOSOM) contractors last March.

The businessmen had deployed the forklift at the port after Gen. Aideed promised to refund the money immediately a government had been formed in Somalia.

It was also reported that around 66 prisoners had broken out from Mogadishu's main jail in the southern part of the city late Friday, taking with them two policemen who were serving them with meals at the time.

Police officer Abdi Farah, who was at the prison's top observation post, fired warning shots but failed to block the escapees. 19 of whom were militiamen of Gen. Aideed's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USCSNA) faction.

The reasons behind the two attacks were not known, but people in the neighbourhood said they believed they were connected with the growing insecurity in the capital since General Mohammad Farah Aideed was declared interim president of Somalia on June 15 by a conference of supporters of his United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USCSNA) faction.

On the other hand, a Somalis radio station backing Gen. Aideed's faction radio attributed the incidents to banditry.

Three other people were also wounded in southern Mogadishu on Sunday when the Wardhigley Islamic Court, run by Murasadeh religious men, attacked and dismantled a roadblock mounted by gunmen. The court security man was

among the wounded.

The escapees apparently passed through the heavily guarded Mogadishu seaport, with the guards letting them through to the port's main gate.

## 5 dead as Mogadishu gunmen fire on civilians

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least five people were killed and 15 wounded in separate incidents when unidentified gunmen indiscriminately opened fire on crowds of defenceless civilians in southern Mogadishu on Sunday.

In one incident, four people were killed on the spot and eight others wounded when 10 gunmen in a Toyota pickup armed with heavy and small machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launcher and small rifles opened fire on a public transport bus.

Among the dead was a woman who died inside the bus, while the other three were killed as they tried to escape the shootout. The wounded were all rushed to Digier hospital for treatment.

In the second incident outside Mogadishu's new seaport, one person was shot dead and four wounded when a machinegun-mounted vehicle fired at a small car carrying members of the port administration.

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## Ex-Hamas members establish political party

GAZA (Agencies) — Five former members of the United Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, announced in Gaza on Sunday the formation of a new political group partly funded by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Some Iraqi refugees were also critical of the United States and other countries for welcoming the defectors, but not taking steps to lift the international sanctions that have impoverished Iraq's 18 million people since they were imposed five years ago.

"I am surprised to see the whole world interested in the defections, but nobody cares for the more important issue of the plight of Iraqis under the sanctions," said an Iraqi taxi driver, who identified himself only as Mohammad.

Many Iraqis said they believed Gen. Hassan fled Iraq due to family disputes, and felt President Saddam had begun to narrow the circle around him in favour of his sons, Odai and Qusai, and some of his half-brothers.

Gen. Hassan said Saturday, there was a power struggle within the ruling family. But he claimed his reason for seeking President Saddam's ouster was to "make the Iraqi people happy, end their problems and continued wars and help bring stability to the country."

He told reporters that while he had left Hamas "others do not have this courage. By the emergence of such an Islamic movement, the chance will be created for those who do not have the courage to separate."

Hamas leads Palestinian opposition to the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal. Militants have killed scores of Israelis, most in suicide attacks, since the accord.

Mr. Abu Dan said the new party was partly funded by the PNA but did not disclose by how much.

Palestinians said they doubted the new party would make a dent in support for Hamas.

Four other ex-members of Hamas attended the press conference with Mr. Abu Dan.

"We will respect the rule of the Palestinian Authority," he said.

"There are others in Hamas who share our opinions.